

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

Sick Iraqi boy dies before U.S. care arranged

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NAACP Image Awards recognize 'Ray,' Usher, Prince

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GI, Iraqi official among six killed in attacks

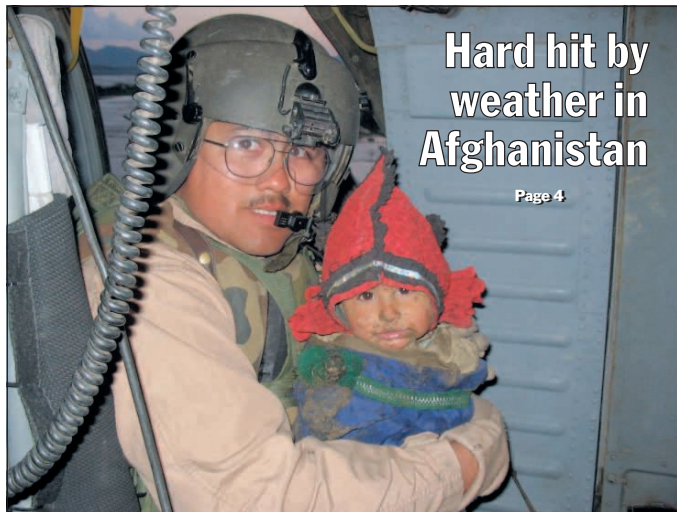
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Volume 2, No. 343 © SS 2005 MIDEAST EDITION

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2005

Suicide bomber hits popular Qatar theater

Police blame Egyptian in Doha blast that killed Briton, wounded 12 Page 7



Hard hit by weather in Afghanistan

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Sgt. Ryan Garfield, UH-60 Black Hawk crew chief, holds a child rescued from rising floodwaters near the southern Afghanistan area of Deh Rawod. Floods ravaged a number of small towns in the area, leaving many people homeless and stranded on small islands. Coalition forces airlifted more than 200 Afghans to safety. Garfield is a member of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, from Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.



West Virginia, UW-Milwaukee score big upsets in weekend Madness

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Big Dig dispute: The Big Dig's top manager said Saturday that a top consultant was fired from the project over a possible conflict of interest, contradicting the man's claim that he resigned because he was stonewalled and can't vouch for the safety of the tunnels.

Massachusetts Turnpike Authority Chairman Matthew Amorello rejected allegations by George Tamaro, an internationally renowned engineer, that Big Dig managers denied him access to crucial information about the repair work done to leaky I-93 tunnels.

Former Conn. governor: Former Connecticut Gov. John Rowland's supporters predict he will rebound from his corruption conviction, make use of old contacts in Washington, find work as a consultant and possibly resume his efforts to help the state's cities.

But Rowland's critics and some of his old political colleagues say he faces an uncertain future as a convicted felon and disgraced former public official since being sentenced to prison Friday.

"My guess is that it's going to be very difficult for him after this. I think this is a stain he will have to bear for a long time. I don't think people will forget it very quickly," said Republican Senate Minority Leader Louis DeLuca.



Rowland

World

Kyrgyzstan protest: Thousands of protesters demanding the resignation of Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev rampaged through a southern city Sunday amid growing anger over allegedly fraudulent elections in the former Soviet republic.

The government said it was ready to negotiate, but opposition leader Kurmanbek Bakiyev said talks would be possible only if the president himself is involved.

Securing the euro: European Union finance ministers met Sunday in Brussels, Belgium, to amend rules for securing a stable euro, debating ideas that go far in meeting German and French demands for room to spend their way out of economic downturns.

Negotiations to reform the euro's "Stability and Growth Pact" — while retaining its key requirement that a euro-zone nation's annual budget deficit cannot exceed 3 percent of gross domestic product — have been deadlocked for months. The lack of consensus was clear from the start of Sunday's meeting.

West Bank handover: Israel's defense minister said Sunday that Israel will soon hand over a second West Bank town to Palestinian control, pushing forward with peace efforts despite new violence that dealt a new challenge to a recent cease-fire.

Commanders from the two sides planned to meet later Sunday to finalize the transfer of Tulikarem to Palestinian forces. Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said the handover would take place on Monday, days after Israel ended its troops from Jericho.

U.N. war crimes trial: A senior Bosnian Serb general indicted for genocide in the 1995 massacre of some 8,000 Muslim men and boys in Srebrenica is to surrender to the U.N. war crimes tribunal, the Serbian government said Sunday.

Vinko Pandurevic, a top fugitive since the end of the 1992-95 war in neighboring Bosnia, was to travel to the Netherlands on



Lunsford kidnapping, murder: John Evander Couey makes his first appearance Sunday at the Citrus County Detention Facility in Lecanto, Fla. Couey has confessed to the abduction and murder of 9-year-old Jessica Lunsford. Couey was booked early Sunday on a probation violation and failure to register as a sex offender, according to officials. He has not officially been charged in Lunsford's death, although that move was expected soon.

Wednesday to give himself up to the U.N. court at The Hague, the government said in a statement.

Possible violation of Mideast pact: An extensive aerial photography operation carried out for Israel's Defense Ministry has revealed considerable new building in Jewish settlements in the West Bank, an Israeli newspaper reported Sunday, an apparent violation of Israeli obligations under a U.S.-backed Middle East peace plan.

Expansion of Israeli settlements runs counter to the "road map" peace plan, which calls for a complete freeze on settlement construction, including that resulting from natural population growth.

Lebanon turmoil: Lebanese President Emile Lahoud will not bow to pressure from the anti-Syrian opposition to resign, a senior aide said Sunday, insisting that the leader still had parliament's confidence and would not leave a power vacuum.

The remarks by Rafik Shalala, Lahoud's media adviser, come amid a deepening political crisis in Lebanon since the Feb. 14 assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

Shalala stressed that the president can be forced to step down only if he is impeached by Parliament for either violation of the con-

stitution or high treason.

Italy railway strike: Italian railway workers pressing for improved safety measure have called an eight-hour strike for Monday, but most long-distance trains will make their runs, according to state railways.

The strike originally had been scheduled to last for 24 hours, but after appeals from authorities to reduce the impact on travelers at the start of a holiday week, the stoppage was reduced to eight hours, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Protests in Pakistan: About 35,000 supporters of a religious alliance rallied in Karachi, Pakistan, on Sunday, many chanting slogans against President Gen. Pervez Musharraf and the United States.

"Death to Musharraf, death to America," chanted participants of the rally organized by a six-party coalition of radical Islamic groups on a busy road in Karachi.

The alliance, which demands Musharraf step down as the army chief, made unexpected gains in parliamentary elections in 2002 mainly on a platform of opposition to the army general and the U.S. war against terrorism that ousted the Taliban militia from power in Afghanistan in late 2001.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Musharraf

Rebels kill 6 in attacks on security forces

BY SAMEER N. YACOB

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Insurgents targeted Iraqi and U.S. security forces with gunfire, suicide attacks and mortar rounds Sunday, killing six people — including a U.S. soldier and an Iraqi corruption official — as the conflict moved into its third year since the U.S.-led invasion.

Neighbors Iraq and Jordan withdrew their highest-level diplomats from each others' territory as tensions between the two countries increase over the alleged involvement of a Jordanian in a deadly suicide bomb attack in the city of Hillah.

Separately, a Jordanian court sentenced Iraq's most-wanted terrorist, Abu-Musab al-Zarqawi, in absentia to 15 years in prison.

A bomb exploded early Sunday near the northern city of Kirkuk, killing a U.S. soldier and wounding three others, the U.S. military said in a statement.

Elsewhere in northern Iraq, a suicide bomber blew himself up inside a government compound in Mosul, killing Walid Kashmoula, the head of the Iraqi police anti-corruption department, officials said. Three others were wounded.

Al-Zarqawi's al-Qaida in Iraq group reportedly claimed responsibility for the attack in a message posted on an Islamic Web site known for carrying statements from extremist militant groups.

People in Baghdad said saboteurs blew up a municipal building in northern Baghdad Sunday, reducing the two-story building to rubble.

A Humvee also was overturned on the highway to the airport. Witnesses said it was hit by a roadside bomb, but U.S. military officials were not available to comment.

Iraq's fledgling security force



A woman who lives nearby walks through the rubble of a local government building that was destroyed by a bomb detonated overnight in the Saydiya section of Baghdad on Sunday.

has been struggling to build its ranks and fight the lawlessness that has gripped the country in the two years since President Bush ordered the U.S.-led invasion on March 19, 2003.

Assaults leapt from their vehicle and unleashed gunfire on a policeman walking to work in Samarra, killing the man, said Maj. Sadoun Ahmed, a police official in the Sunni Triangle town some 60 miles north of Baghdad.

Police who went to collect the man's body also came under attack, sparking a gunfight that left three police injured along with a trio of attackers, who were arrested, police Lt. Qasim Mohammed said.

In the southern city of Basra, attackers targeted a police patrol

with a roadside bomb, killing one civilian and injuring a policeman, police Col. Karim al-Zaidi said.

Insurgents also lobbed mortar fire into a neighborhood just outside the walls of an Iraqi army base in the town of Mahmudiya, south of Baghdad, killing one civilian and injuring two others.

Explaining the tit-for-tat diplomatic withdrawals, Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebary said Iraq's ambassador to Amman was being recalled for "consultations." Earlier, Jordan said it was doing the same to its highest official in Baghdad.

The decision followed a week of mounting anti-Jordanian sentiment after a newspaper reported that Jordanian Raed Mansour al-Banna carried out the bombing

in Hillah, the single deadliest attack of Iraq's insurgency.

Also in Jordan, a military court sentenced al-Zarqawi, whose whereabouts are unknown, to 15 years in jail and a detained associate to three years behind bars Sunday for planning an attack on the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad, the offices of the Jordanian military attaché in Baghdad and unspecified American targets in Iraq.

The court was told that the two Jordanians met in Iraq in November 2003 to plan an attack on the embassy following an August bombing on the same building that killed 18 people. Al-Zarqawi has also been accused of carrying out the August bombing.

Associated Press reporter Dale Gavlak contributed to this story from Amman, Jordan.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Saturday, at least 1,519 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,158 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is six higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 21; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Slovakia and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,381 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,049 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Spc. Rocky D. Payne, 26, Howell, Utah, killed Wednesday when an explosive detonated near his vehicle in Iraq; assigned to the 497th Transportation Company, 44th Corps Support Battalion, 1st Corps Support Command, Fort Lewis, Wash.

Kuwait accident injures 2 GIs

KUWAIT CITY — A vehicle accident has killed one Kuwaiti and injured two American soldiers, the U.S. military said in a statement Sunday.

The statement said the accident occurred Thursday near Camp Arifjan, a major logistics base for American forces south of Kuwait City, capital of this small oil-rich U.S. ally.

U.S. military spokesmen Capt. David Tippin provided no details on how the accident happened, saying only it was not believed to be terror-related.

Straw links invasion, democracy

LONDON — British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said Sunday that the invasion of Iraq is at least partly responsible for democratic changes taking place elsewhere in the Middle East.

He said the toppling of Saddam Hussein and Iraqi elections this January appeared to have had some impact in Egypt, which recently announced it will hold its first multi-candidate presidential election, and Lebanon, where popular demonstrations forced the resignation of the country's pro-Syrian government.

"It will be for historians to judge" exactly how much the events were linked, Straw said.

From The Associated Press

Rumsfeld claims northern attack on Iraq would have helped quash the insurgency

By SIOBHAN McDONOUGH

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The level of insurgency in postwar Iraq wouldn't be so high if the U.S.-led coalition had been able to invade from the north, through Turkey, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Sunday.

Rumsfeld told "Fox News Sunday" that if the United States had been able to get its 4th Infantry Division into northern Iraq through Turkey, more of Saddam's Baathist regime would have been captured or killed, diminishing the insurgency.

U.S. forces had to enter Iraq from the south, so by the time Baghdad was taken, much of Saddam's military and intelligence services had dissipated into the northern cities, Rumsfeld said.

"They're still, in a number of instances, still active," he said.

As Iraqi security forces develop, Rumsfeld said, they will take increasing responsibility and the insurgency will diminish

"So far, we've only used in Iraq and Afghanistan something like 40 percent of the Guard and Reserve. It's not like everything's been used up."

Donald H. Rumsfeld
Defense secretary

over time. He estimated current Iraqi security forces at more than 145,000.

U.S. forces in Iraq are being reduced from 153,000 to 137,000 or 140,000, Rumsfeld said, although it's possible more security will have to be put into place when new elections take place next year.

Rumsfeld told ABC's "This Week" that

at least 30 projects are under way to reduce stress on U.S. forces. For example, he said, a new national NBC personnel system allows for the use of fewer military people in civilian positions, and the Pentagon is rebalancing the active force with the reserve component.

"So far, we've only used in Iraq and Afghanistan something like 40 percent of the Guard and Reserve," he said. "It's not like everything's been used up."

Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told NBC's "Meet the Press" that the all-volunteer force is "working marvelously."

"I've served in the draft force, I've served in the volunteer force," he said. "The American public should not be at all confused about the volunteer force and how well it's performing."

On Fox, Rumsfeld defended his "old Europe" characterization of nations such as France and Germany that opposed U.S. policy in Iraq.

"I don't think it was a stunning comment, and it certainly wasn't in any way denigrating anything,"

Military comes to aid in rainy Afghanistan

Troops launch rescue efforts as torrential rains spark flooding

BY KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — To recent arrivals, it might seem as if there are only two types of weather in Afghanistan: rain and the brief periods between rain.

But the new millennium hadn't delivered much in the way of precipitation to Afghanistan until this winter. Then the snow came. Then, with the warmer weather came steady rain.

"Traditionally, the rain season doesn't stop until the first part of May," said Air Force Capt. Laura Maddin, the officer in charge of the weather detachment at Bagram Air Base.

The weather already has caused massive problems across the country. Servicemembers made dozens of humanitarian missions during the winter, dropping food to those cut off by snow or blocked roads.

Spring, which started Sunday, isn't off to a good start either.

An Associated Press report Sunday said more than 200 were missing after days of torrential rains have sparked floods. The confirmed death toll from flooding stood at 24. That's in spite of a rescue effort by U.S. forces on Friday that saved at least dozens — and perhaps hundreds — of residents trapped by rising waters in western Afghanistan.

Much of the country's soil is composed of clay and doesn't absorb water quickly.

During the recent dry years, many people have moved into areas susceptible to flooding. U.S. bases, except for some muddy areas, have generally fared well.

Bagram Air Base, at an elevation of about 4,900 feet, has recorded 2.79 inches of rain so far in March and 3.92 inches in February — 1½ inches above average, Maddin said. And, with 10 days left in March, the total was just short of the monthly average. Bases at lower elevations have re-

ported no major problems.

"There are some bases which are technically in a flood plain," said Lt. Col. Kevin Kille, civil-military operations officer for Combined/Joint Task Force-76. "But we don't see any danger at this point."

Kille, a planner for the Delaware Emergency Management Agency in his civilian life, and a team of other military experts spend a good deal of time planning for the worst.

"Essentially, we monitor the conditions for flooding and respond to their effects," he said.

Kille estimates that U.S. forces conduct some kind of humanitarian assistance every day. A lot of it lately has to do with the weather. But he said coalition forces only get involved in disaster operations when the Afghan government and United Nations can't handle a situation.

U.S. aid often involves providing air lift or ground transportation. Coalition members also meet with Afghan government officials during their regular disaster planning meetings.

Kille, who has taught U.S. disaster relief methods in five foreign countries, said he'd like to do the same in Afghanistan.

Flooding and mudslides can pose another danger in a country rife with land mines. Weather might be able to put them in places once thought safe.

"That concern does exist," said Maj. Chris Donick, engineer planner for CJTF-76. "But I don't think it makes Afghanistan any more dangerous than it already is."

Donick said trying to figure out how many land mines might be



Rain in the last couple of days has left Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan wet and muddy. But unlike other areas of the country, there is no danger of flooding at U.S. military posts.

shifted by flooding and mudslides is an impossible task. But he thinks it's likely that at least some have moved into areas once thought cleared.

"Four inches of water, if it's moving fast enough, will knock a person off his feet," he said. "So it'll certainly move a land mine."

Donick said there's also the possibility that mud could cover land

mines that once could be easily seen — and avoided.

So while those on base mind their steps trying to avoid mud puddles, servicemembers throughout the country are told to always pay attention to their surroundings — whether it's raining or not.

E-mail Kent Harris at: harris@mail.esrpress.osd.mil

Weather patterns are hard to track

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — How does recent precipitation — both snow and rain — compare with other periods in Afghan history?

Capt. Laura Maddin, the officer in charge of the Air Force weather detachment in Bagram, said it's hard to tell.

The Taliban compared meteorology with sorcery and destroyed a lot of records when they were in power, she said.

Some records have been found in Kabul and the military is currently using those — adjusted somewhat for the lower altitude in Bagram — as a basis for historical averages.

Lt. Col. Kevin Kille, civil-military operations officer for CJTF-76, said countries in Southwest Asia historically suffer through five to seven years of drought every few decades.

Military officials also hear comments from local residents about the weather from time to time. "We've heard from some that when the Taliban left, they took the drought with them," Kille said.

— Kent Harris



Kille



Donick

Afghan parliamentary elections set

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The much-delayed parliamentary elections in Afghanistan will be held Sept. 18, election officials said Sunday, the next key step toward democracy after a quarter century of war.

Presidential and parliamentary elections were initially scheduled for June last year, but both were delayed because of the slow pace of preparations and efforts to disarm warlords and militia commanders who the United Nations' feared would intimidate voters.

The presidential elections were held in October, but the legislative ballot was postponed until May, and then again to September because of what President Hamid Karzai called "technical problems" and lack of an accurate census. On Sunday, election board chairman Bismillah Bismil gave the specific date for the vote.

After consulting the government and political parties, "we came to the decision to hold the polling on Sept. 18," the election commission said in a statement. "It will provide Afghans the opportunity to choose their representatives."

The much-delayed vote will select provincial councils as well as the lower house of parliament.

Parliamentary elections are supposed to complete a political process agreed in Bonn, Germany, after U.S. and allied Afghan forces drove out the Taliban in late 2001 for harboring al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

Afghanistan adopted a new constitution in January last year and elected Karzai president in the October ballot.

In a visit to Kabul this month, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the United States would support Afghanistan as it prepares for the vote.

"We will stand by the Afghan people as they go through the next stage in their democratic development, the parliamentary elections that will take place this year. We look forward to continuing to help in the reconstruction of Afghanistan," she said.

Afghanistan's population is an estimated 25 million, though there has been no reliable census since decades of war led to flight by millions. Many have returned since fall of Taliban. There are 10.5 million registered voters within Afghanistan, about 740,000 refugees in Pakistan, and 400,000-600,000 refugees in Iran. Just over 40 percent registered in Afghanistan are women.



A worker carries a wheelbarrow inside the main hall of the old Afghan Parliament that was heavily damaged during the civil war, and is now under reconstruction in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Sunday. Afghanistan will hold its delayed parliamentary elections on Sept. 18.

Australians protest new deployment for Iraq war

The Associated Press

SYDNEY, Australia — Thousands of anti-war protesters rallied Sunday on the second anniversary of the Australia-backed invasion of Iraq and against the government's recent decision to double the number of its troops in the war-torn nation.

Prime Minister John Howard sent 2,000 troops to support the U.S.-led invasion, but soon withdrew all but about 300. In February, the government announced it would deploy another 450 to protect Japanese military engineers working in Iraq's south.

The additional deployment has been widely criticized. A poll last week said 55 percent of Australians oppose the move, while 37 percent support it.

Despite the opposition, Prime Minister John Howard said he stood by his decision.

"In the long-run, the Middle East will be a more democratic, a more stable place and people will be given the opportunity to live their lives in freedom," he said.

Among the speakers at a rally in Sydney was Mamdouh Habib, an Australian released from U.S. detention at Guantanamo Bay in January, more than three years after his arrest in Pakistan. U.S. authorities had alleged that he helped train those responsible for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States. But he was released without being charged.

Hundreds of people also rallied in the cities of Perth and Adelaide. Many held pictures of dead Iraqi civilians.

Opposition Labor Party leader Kim Beazley said Australia shouldn't send more troops to Iraq because it had "done its fair share."



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Dr. (Capt.) Matthew J. Carter, a pediatrician at the Capt. John Teal Medical Facility at Forward Operating Base Warhorse in Baqouba, Iraq, was trying to get approval for Abbas to be flown to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., for treatment.

Sick Iraqi boy dies before he could go to America for care

BY CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

BAQOUBA, Iraq — A sick Iraqi boy being treated by U.S. soldiers pending permission for medical care in the United States died early Sunday in a Baghdad military hospital.

Qais Abbas, known as Abbasi, turned 3 on March 10 at the Teal Medical Facility at Forward Operating Base Warhorse in Baqouba. A few days later he was flown to Baghdad for treatment at the 86th Combat Support Hospital. Using equipment found in storage, doctors there diagnosed him as having visceral leishmaniasis, an immune-deficiency disease contracted by the bite of an infected sand fly.

Permission for Abbasi to be taken to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., for treatment was being pursued through diplomatic and military channels, according to Dr. (Capt.) Matthew Carter of Company C, 203rd Forward Support Battalion, which operates the Teal clinic.

Carter had flown with the boy to Baghdad. On March 14, Abbasi was flown by helicopter from Baghdad to the nearby air base at Balad for what was believed to be a flight to Washington, Carter said.

But when it was discovered that approval had not yet been granted, the boy was returned to Baghdad the next day.

"There was a paperwork mix-up," Carter said a few days later. "It probably happens when one division is transferring a tank

to another division. Nobody really knows who the tank belongs to."

Abbasi was the grandson of a local sheik at a village near Baqouba. The sheik had been friendly with U.S. forces.

The sick boy was first noticed by 2nd Lt. Christopher Hale of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armored Regiment, while Hale was working in the sheik's village. Hale brought the boy's condition to the attention of his company's medic.

The boy, who had already been treated in Iraqi medical facilities, was brought in late February to the Teal clinic at FOB Warhorse.

"It got started with the soldier on the ground," said Lt. Col. Oscar J. Hall, commander of the 2-34. "[Hale] felt we could do more, that we could make a difference in this boy's life."

Among those wanting to help the boy was the mother of the late Capt. John R. Teal, who was killed in action in Baqouba and for whom the Teal Medical Facility is named, and Frances Mayo, the president of Operation AAC Inc., a Delaware-based nonprofit organization. The two pledged to pay for Abbasi's transport to Washington if the government turned down the request.

Mayo said she learned about Abbasi in an article on the Stars and Stripes Web site.

"I called [Mrs. Teal] ... and asked her if she wanted me to help this kid," Mayo wrote in an e-mail to Stars and Stripes. "We want to do this in Captain Teal's name."

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Iraq invasion anniversary brings out protesters

BY SAM DOLNICK

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Anti-war activists marched in the streets of American cities big and small Saturday, stopping traffic and lying down alongside flag-draped cardboard coffins to mark the second anniversary of the start of the war in Iraq.

Some of the demonstrators were arrested in New York as they demanded that U.S. troops be brought home.

"The country was founded by acts of civil disobedience," said David McReynolds, 75, of New York, as he marched along 42nd Street. "We have an obligation to make our resistance public and to say as clearly as we can that the war is illegal."

In San Francisco, hundreds of protesters rallied in Dolores Park in the city's Mission district, holding up posters with photographs of dead American soldiers. The protesters then marched to City Hall for another rally.

One protester dressed up like the hooded Iraqi prisoner in the famous photo taken of detainee Abu at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison. The woman was surrounded by others wearing masks of President Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, who were dancing to the song "Shout" by the Isley Brothers.

"This is a war of aggression," said Ed McManus, 54, a Vietnam War veteran. "Bush has admitted by his actions and his deeds that he is a war criminal."

Organizers encouraged civility at rallies in the city, where protesters just after the war began were among the most vocal and angry in the country, with thousands of arrests and frequent conflicts between police and demonstrators.

Police wearing helmets and armed with batons lined the streets Saturday, but they reported no disturbances.

Across Europe, tens of thousands of protesters also packed streets and public parks to protest the war. In England, 45,000 people marched from London's Hyde Park past the American Embassy to Trafalgar Square, while an estimated 15,000 people — some carrying signs reading "Murderer Bush, get out" — marched in Turkey.

Hundreds in New York listened to anti-war speeches at the United Nations, then marched along 42nd Street to Times Square, where police penned them in on a sidewalk.



ST. AUGUSTINE (FLA) RECORD-AP

Anti-war protesters marking the second anniversary of the start of the war in Iraq make their way down St. George Street in St. Augustine, Fla., on Saturday.

An anti-war rally organized in part by veterans and military families drew about 3,000 people to a park near Fort Bragg,

N.C. — home to more than 40,000 soldiers. Demonstrators said they hoped it would build pressure to bring troops home.



PHOTOS BY TODD GOODMAN/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey speaks with Sgt. Jacques Ballay, a Louisiana National Guard member who was injured in Iraq. Ballay lost his left eye in the combat zone.

Harvey: Army to pull out all stops to boost force

Army secretary discusses recruiting, reshaping the service as he wraps up overseas tour at Landstuhl

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

LANDSTUHL, Germany — After falling short of its recruiting goal, the Army will "pull all the stops out" to sign up more troops, the service's top civilian leader said.

The Army is offering more incentives and boosting the number of recruiters by one-third to entice men and women to join the active-duty Army, National Guard and Reserve, Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey said on Saturday.

The service missed its recruiting mark by more than 27 percent February. It is the first time in nearly five years the regular Army fell short of its monthly goal.

"We're going to do some out-of-the-box thinking," Harvey told Stars and Stripes. "But I'm concerned. I'm kind of cautiously optimistic in the (active-duty) and very concerned about the (National Guard). But we're not going to give up."

The secretary talked about recruiting and various other issues after meeting with wounded soldiers at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. He visited the hospital after wrapping up an eight-day trip overseas that also took him to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Recruiting has become a top priority for the Army as it tries to bring in 80,000 new soldiers — 3,000 more recruits than last year — by the end of this fiscal year in September.

Signing up more troops will largely fall on recruiters, who



Harvey awards the Purple Heart to Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Chavez Saturday at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. Chavez, a Tennessee National Guard member, operated with the 278th Military Intelligence Battalion in Iraq. He was injured during a mortar attack.

must convince men and women to join even though violence in Iraq has claimed more than 1,500 American lives.

They will have some help.

The number of recruiters will rise from 9,000 to 12,000 in the field, Harvey said. The Army also will offer higher enlistment bonuses to new recruits.

Although the war in Iraq has hurt recruiting, Harvey noted that retention in the ranks is high.

"The retention is a good story and that's important because it's end strength that counts," he said. "It's a combination of recruiting and retention."

The Army's efforts to reshape

its forces to better fight future wars and conflicts will help keep soldiers from leaving, Harvey added. In the near future, soldiers should have a better idea when they will deploy.

Under current plans, active-duty units would be deployed one year and stay home for two years before deploying again. National Guard troops would be deployed for a year and then not deploy for five, while Reserve soldiers would deploy for one year and then stay home for at least four years.

"We're migrating to that and it's intense right now," he said. "But that will relieve the stress on the force and the intention is to do that in the next four years."

Soldiers also will stay at bases longer. Many troops and their families move from base to base every two to three years.

"So we can say to a family you'll be at a certain base for seven years," Harvey said. "You can plan on that. It's predictable. The kids will be in school and you can be a member of the local community."

The predictability of deployments and longer tours at a home base will also help recruiting, he added, but the key to bringing in more soldiers is convincing Americans the importance of military service.

We've got to emphasize the value of service. I mean, we the leaders, Congress, business people have got to say, 'Serving the country is a noble thing to do. Preserving the peace and freedom of the country is a noble thing to do.'

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauer@mail.strips.com

AAFES: Point-of-sale processing downrange eases late-billing hassle

BY JESSICA INIGO

Stars and Stripes

DARMSTADT, Germany — Credit and debit card processing downrange is literally miles ahead of where it was a year ago, according to Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials.

More than 90 percent of AAFES facilities have point-of-sale processing capabilities now, ending potentially long delays between purchases and account debits or charge card bills. Grant Morris, the AAFES treasurer, said it used to take weeks or months for credit and debit card purchases to be processed with the old "good faith" method.

The initial infrastructure only allowed AAFES officials to copy down card information and then take it to the nearest processing facility. In Iraq, that meant sending receipts to Kuwait. Receipts generated in Afghanistan were processed in Germany.

Now that most AAFES stores have point-of-sale capabilities, those at remote sites without a credit card swipe machine only have to go a few miles to the nearest location to process the sales.

Morris said this means funds for purchases are either collected at the time of purchase or days later, easing headaches for some troops who may have forgotten about past purchases.

In one of the more extreme cases, the Cravens family was surprised when \$500 was deducted from their account more than a year after a purchase was made in Iraq.

It took awhile for Sgt. Rebecca Cravens' husband to remember making a large purchase while deployed to Camp Muleskiner,

Iraq, 13 months ago, Cravens wrote in an e-mail to Stars and Stripes.

Cravens only noticed the money taken out of their account when she was trying to balance her checkbook. As a word of advice, Cravens suggests troops pay close attention to their account activity and always keep enough to pay for purchases — even if they were made months before.

"I felt I should warn others because I've seen how people spend their money after they return home," Cravens wrote in the e-mail earlier this month. "If we had spent our savings from Iraq like we really wanted to we would have been in a lot of trouble."

Morris said this incident is unusual and could have been a case of the receipt falling through the cracks for a while. Though he said he was sorry that it took so long to take the funds out, the money was still owed to AAFES.

"If there's any issue like this again with a major delay, we will notify the customer in advance," Morris said during a telephone interview from the United States on Tuesday.

He also noted that before there were credit card machines, AAFES kept signs up as reminders that it could take a while before purchases cleared.

Now, only the most remote sites have to worry about these delays, paying for AAFES merchandise.

However, that may change soon. Morris said AAFES is looking into getting satellite capabilities for these camps within the next year so bills can be processed immediately.

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: inigo@mail.strips.com

Harley-Davidson Sk in Iraq



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

From left, Capt. Richard Newell of Company A, 203rd Forward Support Battalion; Master Sgt. Michael Johnson of Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team; and Pfc. Jeremy Fralla of Company A, 467th Engineers Battalion, run in the Harley-Davidson 5k Saturday at Forward Operating Base Warhorse in Baquba, Iraq. More than 180 soldiers took part in the run in Baquba. The fastest runner was Spc. Mark Shaleer of Company B, 203rd Forward Support Battalion, who covered the race route in 17 minutes, 42 seconds. The race started at 6 p.m. in Iraq, at the same moment that a 10 a.m. motorcycle rally kicked off in Columbus, Ga., where the 3rd Brigade Combat Team is headquartered at Fort Stewart. Money was raised through raffle sales and was donated to the Friends of the Sledgehammer Brigade Association, which pays for unit morale events.



Firefighters check on the safety of residents on Genkai island on Sunday after an earthquake struck off the coast of southern Japan.

Southern Japan rocked by quake

Magnitude-7.0 temblor responsible for 1 death, at least 400 injuries

BY SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI

The Associated Press

FUKUOKA, Japan — A powerful magnitude-7.0 earthquake jolted southern Japan on Sunday, killing an elderly woman, injuring at least 400 people, and prompting authorities to evacuate half the residents of a tiny island near the epicenter.

Authorities issued a tsunami warning that was later canceled.

The temblor, which hit west of Kyushu Island at 10:53 a.m., was centered about 5 1/2 miles below the seabed, Japan's meteorological agency said. Aftershocks followed — at least one of moderate magnitude-4.2 tremor — and the agency's Masahiro Yamamoto warned of more aftershocks measuring up to magnitude-6.0.

A magnitude-7.0 quake can potentially devastate heavily populated areas. But Sunday's temblor didn't directly hit the archi-

pelago, and injuries and damage were minimized by Japan's quake-safe buildings and disaster-prepared population.

The worst damage occurred near the quake's epicenter, on Genkai island, where the shaking touched off landslides and leveled homes. About 120 Japanese troops flew to the island to offer food and medical aid, and to help evacuate more than 400 of the 850 residents to neighboring Kyushu.

Those evacuees joined some 1,500 others in temporary shelters in Fukuoka prefecture.

In Fukuoka, 560 miles southwest of Tokyo, water and gas pipes burst, and hundreds of homes reported power outages. The tremors set off landslides in parts of Fukuoka, Saga and Nagasaki prefectures, and triggered a safety mechanism that halted local and bullet train services in Fukuoka.

A 75-year-old woman died after the section of a stone wall fell on her, a Fukuoka

prefectural government spokesman said on the condition of anonymity.

At least 400 people injured by the quake, most in Fukuoka and Saga prefectures, were treated at hospitals, public broadcaster NHK reported. Most of the injured were struck by toppling cabinets, items falling off shelves or shattered glass, or burned by a cooking stove, the network said.

Fukuoka prefectural government's Web site counted 107 injuries, 15 of them serious. Ten people in neighboring Saga prefecture were injured, a prefectural government official said on the condition of anonymity.

The initial jolt lasted about 30 seconds.

Minutes after the shaking began, the agency warned of the possibility of 20-inch tsunamis, and authorities cautioned residents near the water to move to higher ground. But an hour after the quake, the agency said there was no danger of a tsunami.

At least 30 killed at shrine in Pakistan

BY NASEER KAKAR

The Associated Press

QUETTA, Pakistan — Investigators on Sunday sought clues into a bombing that tore through a gathering of thousands at a Shiite Muslim shrine in southwestern Pakistan, killing 30 people and wounding 20 officials said.

The bomb went off at 10:20 p.m. on Saturday, hitting devotees as they were taking supper at the shrine in Fatehpur village, 210 miles south of Quetta, during an annual commemoration of a revered Shiite saint.

Police puzzled over the motive for the attack on the event, attended by both Shiite and Sunni Muslims, as well as minority Hindus. Officials said it could have been sectarian or the result of a personal dispute over control of the shrine.

The blast left a 2-foot-deep crater and a scene of bloody carnage — and added to security woes in

restive Baluchistan province, hit last week by fighting between government forces and renegade tribesmen.

There was no claim of responsibility for the attack, or immediate indication it was linked to the tribal rebellion.

Provincial police chief Chaudhry Mohammed Yaqoob said investigators believed the blast was caused by a time bomb packed with about seven pounds of explosive and ruled out an initial theory it was a suicide attack. He said the bomb went off in a crowded area, and four or five bodies were burned and mutilated.

Shoaib Nausherwani, Baluchistan's home minister, citing the latest police report, said 30 people were killed and 20 injured.

However, the shrine's caretaker, Syed Sadiq Shah, put the death toll at 44. Yaqoob said police were questioning some people but none of them was believed to be a suspect.



Subway staff members at Kasumigaseki subway station observe a silent prayer on Sunday as Japan marked the 10th anniversary of sarin nerve-gas attacks by the Aum Shinrikyo cult in 1995. In the doomsday cult's terrorist attack, 12 people were killed and more than 5,500 others were injured.

Somber ceremonies in Japan mark 10th anniversary of sarin gas attack

BY KOMAKO AKAI

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Government officials, railway personnel and survivors on Sunday marked the 10th anniversary of a Japanese doomsday cult's nerve gas attack on a Tokyo subway, offering silent prayers and laying flowers at a station for the victims.

At 8 a.m., about 25 officials bowed to observe a moment of silence at a subway station near Japan's government offices district — one of the Aum Shinrikyo cult's targets. They donned their caps, prayed and left bouquets at a temporary altar for the 12 people killed and 5,000 others hospitalized in the attack.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and other government officials also visited the station to pray before the altar, and survivors and families of those killed

later put flowers below a memorial plaque.

On March 20, 1995, five members of the Aum Shinrikyo cult punctured plastic bags filled with sarin nerve gas during morning rush hour.

The attack — Japan's most shocking act of urban terrorism — shattered the cult's image as a low-crime haven, prompted a police crackdown on the cult, and led to tougher security measures at railway stations and airports.

Many of the survivors still suffer from headaches and breathing problems, or are too sick to work. Survivors and their supporters have pressed the government for compensation, pointing to Washington's decision to set up a fund for families of Americans killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks in the United States.

"We have no idea where or when this kind of attack might

happen. To prevent a recurrence, we have to take steps to be fully prepared," Koizumi said.

Tatsuhide Nojiri, who was chief of one of the railway stations attacked, said he can't forget the horrors of that day.

"Even now I remember it so vividly. Frankly, I'd rather not talk about it," he said.

Shizue Takahashi, whose husband was one of two subway personnel killed, said she and others had received nothing from the government.

"In the past decade, victims and their families have been left behind. We want the government to quickly take steps to help sarin victims," she said.

Thirteen Aum members, including the former leader Shoko Asahara, have been sentenced to death for the attack and other crimes. None have yet been executed. Asahara and others have appealed their sentences to higher courts.

Mussolini's granddaughter appeals election bid

MILAN, Italy — Alessandra Mussolini, the granddaughter of Italy's fascist dictator, on Saturday appealed a court decision blocking her from running in a regional election next month.

Mussolini, a deputy in the European Parliament, was prohibited from running in the Lazio region's April 2-4 ballot because of hundreds of alleged fake voter signatures on the list of her party, the right-wing Social Alternative.

Mussolini went on a five-day hunger strike to protest the lower court ruling, which was upheld Friday by an appeals court in Rome. She announced Saturday that she had filed an appeal in the nation's top administrative court, according to news wire reports.

Huge shark tears man in half off Australia coast

CANBERRA, Australia — Authorities were hunting Sunday for a 20-foot shark that tore a man in half as he snokeoffed off Australia's west coast, an official said.

Geoffrey Brazier, the skipper of a pleasure cruiser, was snorkeling with two tourists when he was attacked Saturday. He died instantly off the Abrolhos Islands, about 250 miles north of the Western Australia state capital, Perth, police said. No one else was injured.

An air and sea search of the area 37 miles west of the coastal town of Geraldton on Sunday failed to find the shark or human remains.

From The Associated Press

Canadian health care free – if you can wait

BY BETH DUFF-BROWN
The Associated Press

TORONTO — A letter from the Moncton Hospital to a New Brunswick heart patient in need of an electrocardiogram said the appointment would be in three months. It added: "If the person named on this computer-generated letter is deceased, please accept our sincere apologies."

The patient wasn't dead, according to the doctor who showed the letter to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. But there are many Canadians who claim the long wait for the test and the frigid formality of the letter are indicative of a health system badly in need of emergency care.

Americans who flock to Canada for cheap flu shots often come away impressed at the free and first-class medical care available to Canadians, rich or poor. But tell that to hospital administrators constantly having to cut staff for lack of funds, or to the mother whose teenager was advised she would have to wait up to three years for surgery to repair a torn knee ligament.

"It's like somebody's telling you that you can buy this car, and you've paid for the car, but you can't have it right now," said Jane Pelton.

Rather than leave daughter Emily in pain and a knee brace, the Ottawa family opted to pay \$3,000 for arthroscopic surgery at a private clinic in Vancouver, with no help from the government.

The average Canadian family pays about 48 percent of its income in taxes each year, partly to fund the health care system. Rates vary from province to province, but Ontario, the most populous, spends roughly 40 percent of every tax dollar on health care, according to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

The system is going broke, says the federation, which campaigns for tax reform and private enterprise in health care.

It calculates that at present rates, Ontario will be spending 85 percent of its budget on health care by 2035.

The federal government and virtually every province acknowledge there's a crisis: a lack of physicians and nurses, state-of-the-art equipment and funding. In Ontario, more than 10,000 nurses and hospital workers are facing layoffs over the next two years unless the provincial government boosts funding, says the Ontario Hospital Association, which represents health care providers in the province.

In 1984 Parliament passed the Canada Health Act, which affirmed the federal government's commitment to provide mostly free health care to all, including the 200,000 immigrants arriving each year.

The system is called Medicare (no relation to Medicare in the United States).

However, the delays in the system can be frustrating.



Day

Dr. Brian Day, an English-born arthroscopic surgeon, founded Cambie Surgery Center in Vancouver, British Columbia.

He says he got so frustrated at the long delays to book surgeries at the public hospitals in Vancouver that he built his own private clinic. A leading advocate for reform, he testified last June before the Supreme Court in a landmark appeal against a Quebec ruling upholding limits on private care and insurance.

A ruling on the case is expected any time. Meanwhile, an estimated 4 million of Canada's 33 million people don't have family physicians and more than 1 million are on waiting lists for treatment, according to the Canadian Medical Association.

More Americans moving to Mexico

The Dallas Morning News

MEXICO CITY — The day after the U.S. presidential election, Jim and Joan Markert left for a scheduled vacation in San Miguel de Allende, central Mexico.

Now they've decided they'd like to live there permanently.

The Alabama couple are among the many United States citizens who have been going south, for adventure or a new life. The decades-long trend has gathered steam in recent years, statistics show, and Mexico is undergoing a sustained Americanization, with Americans buying more property, seeking permanent residency and congregating in enclaves that seem like home abroad.

The U.S. State Department estimates that the number of Americans in Mexico has increased from about 200,000 a decade ago to between 600,000 and 1 million today.

"Fifty percent of my clients are Ameri-

cans," said Enrique Riquelme, owner of the ReMax real estate firm in Playa del Carmen, a town near Cancun that once was a haven for youthful Europeans.

"The people who are buying here are three or four years away from retirement ... although there are also a lot of younger people coming — 38 to 40 years old — looking for a place to rest or get out of the cold."

Analysts say the influx of Americans is fueled by such factors as a lower cost of living, more affordable housing, warm weather, a more relaxed pace of life and a different political atmosphere.

More than 76 million American baby boomers are expected to reach retirement age in the next 20 years, and 25 percent of them have no health insurance or savings, according to an AARP report.

A significant number of those future retirees will likely be heading south, said Viviana Rojas, a researcher at the University of Texas in San Antonio.



Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, right, talks to his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin Saturday during their news conference in Kiev, Ukraine. Putin on Saturday launched a tricky diplomatic foray into Ukraine, now under liberal management, after promising European powers he would support pro-Western President Yushchenko.

Putin seeks to forge ties with Ukraine

BY MARA D. BELLABY
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Russian President Vladimir Putin made a one-day fence-mending trip to Ukraine on Saturday to seek assurances that the country's new pro-Western government would not drive the two former Soviet republics apart.

Putin flew to the Ukrainian capital from Paris and met Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, who won the presidential election in December after street protests forced the reversal of an initial vote count that gave victory to his pro-Kremlin opponent. It was Putin's first visit to Ukraine since the so-called "Orange Revolution."

In Paris, President Jacques Chirac assured Putin that Europe sought good relations with Moscow, and the Russian leader had a similar message for Yushchenko. Common interests demand solid partnership, Putin said.

"During today's meeting I was never left with the feeling that our relationship has problems," Putin said. "There are questions, but we will resolve those in a working manner."

Yushchenko said his goal was for "Vladimir Putin and Russia to understand that the new Ukrainian government is a responsible government, which will always demonstrate honesty."

Saturday's brief visit was the second meeting between the leaders. Yushchenko traveled to the Kremlin a day after his inauguration, fulfilling a campaign promise to preserve a good relationship with Russia even as Ukraine seeks membership in the European Union and NATO.

Ukraine also has about 1,600 troops in Iraq, making it the fourth-largest contributor to the coalition and the largest among non-NATO countries, though Yushchenko and top defense officials ordered the troops to leave by year's end. Eighteen Ukrainian soldiers have been killed in Iraq.

"Russia is our eternal neighbor, which Ukraine wants to see as a friend and strategic partner," Yushchenko said.

Putin's last two trips to Ukraine came in the midst of the bitter presidential campaign, sparking accusations he was campaigning on behalf of Yushchenko's rival, former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich.

France goes after prostitution

PARIS — French police raided brothels, budget hotels and parks used by prostitution rings and detained 72 people as part of a weeklong crackdown, police said Sunday.

The raids were aimed at nabbing the middlemen members of prostitution rings — the watchmen paid to survey women

working the streets, hoteliers who rent rooms by the hour, prostitutes who rent trucks and station them inside large parks for use by sex workers and their clients.

A total of 28 raids were carried out since last Monday in cities across France, including Paris, Bordeaux, Lyon, Nantes and Orleans, police said.

From the Associated Press

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IN THE STATES

Republicans push bill to keep Schiavo alive

Congress calls special session; parents tell hospice to prepare to reinsert feeding tube

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republicans, seeing Congress as a last hope for brain-damaged Terri Schiavo, convened an extraordinary Palm Sunday session to pass legislation aimed at prolonging the Florida woman's life. Democrats refused to allow the measure to go ahead with a vote, forcing Republicans to scramble to bring their members back to Washington.

Republicans were denying that political motivations were behind legislative efforts to reconnect Schiavo's feeding tube.

"I hope we're not ... making this human tragedy a political issue," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. "We've got plenty of other issues that are political in nature for us to fight about."

Leaders of both parties agreed Saturday on legislation that they said would allow Schiavo's feeding tube, which was disconnected Friday afternoon, to be reinserted while federal courts review her case.

But when the House convened Sunday afternoon, Democrats made clear they would not let it pass on a voice vote, requiring the assembly of a quorum for a roll call vote.

With that, Republicans called a recess and said they planned to meet as early as one minute after midnight on Monday, if they get the needed quorum of 218. The Senate was ready to give its quick approval and President Bush was planning to return from his ranch in Crawford, Texas, to sign it.

The bill, "for the relief of the parents of Theresa Marie Schiavo," gives the parents the right to file suit in federal court relating to the withdrawal of food and medical



Above: From left to right, Sens. Rick Santorum, R-Penn., Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, and Mel Martinez, R-Fla., discuss a bill Saturday in Washington referred to as relief for the parents of Theresa Marie Schiavo.

Left: Terri Schiavo's mother Mary Schindler, right, and sister Suzanne Vitadamo await the start of a Sunday news conference outside the Woodside Hospice in Pinellas Park, Fla.

treatment needed to sustain the life of their daughter.

The bill states that the U.S. District Court, after determining the merits of the suit, "shall issue such declaratory and injunctive relief as may be necessary to protect the rights" of the woman. Injunctive relief in this case could mean the reinserting of feeding tubes.

The House planned to meet Sunday afternoon in hopes of approving the measure. If any congressman objected to the bill being taken up on an expedited basis, a vote would have to wait until Monday. The Senate would have to act after the House completes work.

President Bush was planning to return to Washington from his ranch in Crawford, Texas, because of the Capitol Hill developments.

McCain was asked on ABC's "This Week" about a memo suggesting GOP lawmakers could use the case to appeal to Christian conservative voters.

"I think that the motivation of my colleagues is that we want to give this young woman's family a chance to care for her for as long as she lives," McCain said. "I don't think it's any more complicated than that."

He also pointed out, "The Democrats do not disagree with the unanimous voice vote in the Senate implementing this."

But some House Democrats were objecting to congressional involvement. Rep. Robert Wexler, D-Fla., said he plans to make an objection Sunday in an effort to stop the vote.

Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., said in a

statement, "The assault by ideologues and intolerant people who would impose government on these most personal decisions continues."

Hanging their hopes on Congress, Terri Schiavo's parents notified her hospice in Pinellas Park, Fla., to prepare to have her feeding tube reinserted on Sunday, her third day without food or water.

Schiavo's husband, Michael, criticized congressional leaders Sunday for intruding in the fight.

"I'm outraged, and I think that every American in this country should also be outraged that this government is trampling all over a personal family matter that has been adjudicated in the courts for seven years," he told CNN. "I think that the Congress has more important things to discuss."

Annan to propose big changes at U.N.

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Monday will propose restructuring a U.N. human rights panel, ask for a swift decision to expand the Security Council and announce sweeping changes designed to prevent new scandals, the Los Angeles Times reported.

The blueprint for reform, according to a draft copy obtained by The Times, also proposes ways to keep the U.N. the primary setting for global security decisions and the key player in international development issues.

The reforms depend on the endorsement of the General Assembly and the agreement of world leaders who are coming to a U.N. summit in September, the Times said in a story posted to its Web site.

Many of the ideas in the document have been floated in recent months by special panels on U.N. reform and global development that Annan commissioned. But fierce reactions from some govern-

ments led Annan to temper a proposed definition of terrorism and stop short of requiring criteria for membership on the human rights panel.

With the U.N. still bruised by the U.S. decision to lead an invasion of Iraq without the Security Council's blessing, Annan has searched for ways to keep the Bush administration engaged in the world body and address the U.S.'s post-Sept. 11 sense of vulnerability.



Annan

mentality, the report calls for a comprehensive anti-terrorism convention by September 2006, new measures to stem nuclear proliferation and an agreement on rules for the use of force and preemptive action, the Times said.

3 missing after explosion at Colo. lodge

The Associated Press



A flight crew prepares to take off from Paonia High School late Saturday in Paonia, Colo. The school served as a triage area after a fiery explosion, that may have been caused by propane, destroyed a nearby mountain lodge.

PAONIA, Colo. — Three youngsters were missing and 16 others were injured in a fiery explosion that destroyed a remote mountain lodge, authorities said Sunday.

The three missing, ages 3, 12, and 15, were all from the same family, Delta County Sheriff Fred McKee said.

"We are very concerned that they were last seen in the lodge," McKee said.

McKee said the explosion Saturday at the Electric Mountain Lodge may have been caused by propane, which was used for heating. Investigators planned to enter the burned-out lodge Sunday if the wreckage had cooled sufficiently.

Because the lodge in the Gunnison National Forest on the western slopes of the Rockies is isolated by heavy snow, helicopters took injured people off the mountain while ground crews used tracked vehicles to ferry emergency medical teams to the site.

Injuries ranged from burns and smoke inhalation to "serious compound fractures," according to officials.

'GoodFellas' ex-mobster charged

NORTH PLATTE, Neb. — Former mobster-turned-chef Henry Hill, whose gangland experiences inspired the movie "GoodFellas," has been charged with felony drug possession.

Police said Hill's luggage was searched on Aug. 15 at the North Platte Regional Airport and methamphetamine and cocaine were found.

Hill, portrayed by Ray Liotta in "GoodFellas," had sought refuge in the witness protection program after agreeing to testify against his former mob bosses from New York.

Hill left the witness protection program and now lives in North Platte with his wife. He has been working as a chef and helping establish an Italian restaurant.

From The Associated Press

Escaped Ga. hostage is latest instant celebrity

BY DAN THANH DANG
The (Baltimore) Sun

There's no telling when instant fame will strike next.

It happened to massage therapist Amber Frey and Army soldier Jessica Lynch in 2003. Nine Pennsylvania coal miners endured it in 2002 and Air Force pilot Scott O'Grady emerged from it a courageous hero in 1995.

Now add Ashley Smith to those ranks.

The 26-year-old widowed mother in Atlanta went from total unknown to in-demand celebrity after persuading her captor Brian G. Nichols to set her free after a seven-hour hostage ordeal last weekend. It was a story made all the more compelling because Nichols was the suspect in the killings of a judge, a court reporter, a deputy and later, a federal agent.

Now the media frenzy begins.

"You can never really put a price on it but I think this could be a six-figure book," says Andrea Barzvi, a literary agent at International Creative Management. "But more than money, she could have a best seller on her hands. People want to know how she did it."

"It's a story of courage, faith, perseverance, hope, heroism and survival," Barzvi says. "A lot of publishing houses are probably approaching her to do book deals."

As the biggest get in the news right now, Smith reportedly has received at least four offers from book publishers who are eager to tell her story. She's also been invited with proposals for movies, talk show appearances and media interviews.

In a world searching for heroes, prone to idolizing celebrities and tuned to 24-hour news, ordinary people who do extraordinary things are a hot commodity,

says Leo Braudy, a University of Southern California professor who wrote "The Frenzy of Renown."

"Normality is validated when ordinary people do extraordinary things," Braudy says.

Just look at Frey, whose claim to fame is revealing herself as the secret mistress who helped the authorities arrest and convict her married lover, Scott Peterson. Frey's book, "Witness for the Prosecution of Scott Peterson," hit the shelves in January and became an Amazon best seller. Lynch nabbed a \$1 million book deal (split between her and Pulitzer Prize newspaperman Rick Bragg), appearances on television and a made-for-TV movie. Interest in her prisoner-of-war story didn't subside even after it was revealed that media accounts exaggerated her heroism in Iraq.

In June 1995, Capt. Scott O'Grady was shot down over Bosnia, where the pilot hid from Serbian forces for six days until the Marines retrieved him. Within weeks of his rescue, O'Grady clinched a book deal with Doubleday worth at least \$500,000. In the case of Smith, the 24-hour news cycle could help or hurt her chances of a major book deal.

In the week since Nichols surrendered, salacious details have emerged in the Michael Jackson molestation case, actor Robert Blake was declared not guilty in his wife's murder trial, and Scott Peterson was sentenced to death.

"In a slow news cycle, Smith's story would have gotten a longer ride," says Maureen Orth, a Vanity Fair reporter. "It's been a fairly spectacular week for crime stories. Smith's story has kind of been lost in the shuffle. But perhaps if she hasn't been wrung dry by myriad cable appearances, newspaper stories, etc., there may be parts of her story that are still fascinating."



Ashley Smith reads a statement to the media on last Monday in Augusta, Ga. The 26-year-old mother, waitress and student relied on her calmness and spiritual upbringing to survive a seven-hour ordeal in her apartment March 12, when she was taken hostage by a man suspected of killing four people in Atlanta.

Message for our men and women in uniform...

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Colo. castle sells for \$4M, ghost and all

BY ERIN GARTNER
The Associated Press

DENVER — A historic castle where John D. Rockefeller and Theodore Roosevelt were guests — and where a coal baron's ghost is said to haunt the house — was auctioned for \$4 million Saturday, two years after the IRS seized the century-old mansion in a fraud investigation.

A Pasadena, Calif., man made the winning bid, said John Harrison, an IRS special agent. The unidentified buyer declined to talk with reporters.

"I had a brief moment to meet him, and I think he's going to be a real asset to the Redstone community," said Walter Staszek, a University of Oklahoma professor who had the winning bid for a nearby Victorian home. "I'm just excited to say I have a neighbor that owns a castle."

IRS agents seized the 42-room Redstone Castle in the mountains

near Aspen in March 2003 while investigating an international Ponzi investment scheme.

The castle's previous owner, Leon Harte, was being investigated before he died in 2003. Court documents said Harte and others had formed three companies to buy the castle and the Victorian home for \$6 million five years ago.

Investigators say about 1,000 people were bilked of a total of \$56 million on the promise of 400 percent investment returns. A grand jury indicted seven people last year and trial proceedings are scheduled for September.

Proceeds from the auction will help reimburse victims, Harrison said.

The sale was the latest twist in the castle's almost epic past.

Teddy Roosevelt stayed at the estate during a hunting trip after he left the White House; oil tycoon John D. Rockefeller did, too.

But it was nearly abandoned after a mining bust, and some say the cigar-smoking ghost of its builder, coal baron John Cleveland Osgood — who died in the castle he named Cleveland Manor — still haunts the place.

The castle, filled with antiques and surrounded by a carriage house, barn and other outbuildings, was finished in 1902 at a price of \$2.5 million — an astonishing sum at the time.

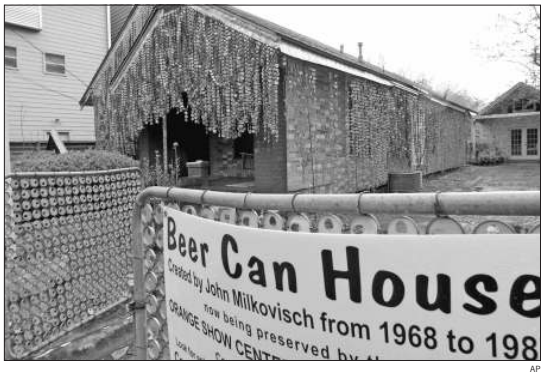
It was erected on a mountain-side overlooking the coal-mining town Osgood built for his employees.

"It's kind of like a medieval manor. The castle was about an aristocratic mile away from the village," said Darrell Munsell, president of the Redstone Historical Society.

Despite a string of owners, the castle and grounds remain largely unchanged. Since the 1970s, the estate has usually been open for tours, wedding parties and other events.



The Redstone Castle in Redstone, Colo., was sold for \$4 million Saturday, two years after federal agents seized it as part of a multimillion-dollar investing scam. The century-old castle has a history full of ghosts, ex-presidents and industrial tycoons.



An art endowment will keep the Beer Can House in Houston decorated with thousands of flattened beer cans from facing last bid. Beer lover John Milkovich attached the cans to his house over a 20-year period as an alternative to more traditional home repair.

No last call for Beer Can House

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — An art endowment will keep a Houston home decorated with thousands of flattened beer cans from facing its last call.

Beer-lover John Milkovich attached the cans to his house over a 20-year period as an alternative to more traditional home repair.

He also made beer can fences and garlands to hang from his roof.

The house was becoming a nationally celebrated folk-art site when the Southern Pacific upholder died in 1988 at 75, but has suffered years of decline. Now, with a \$125,000 Houston Endowment grant to the Orange Show Center for Visionary Art, efforts to restore the home are on the fast track.

The house will be open for tours after repair and restoration is complete, said Susanne Ties, executive director of the Orange Show, which bought the house in 2001.

"The Beer Can House represents the sort of idiosyncratic individualism that Houstonians and Texans pride themselves on," said Emily Todd, the endowment's grant officer.

Family members said Milkovich started covering his house with flattened beer cans so he wouldn't have to paint. He secretly liked the notice his home received but seemed surprised that it was thought of as a work of art.

The Orange Show is looking for an architect to trace the home's evolution so it can be represented at its artistic peak. The home will then be cleaned, repaired and restored.

"Some things have just been lost over time," Ties said.

An arch of beer-can tops and bottoms once reached across the driveway and there once was a curtain of pop tops on the south side of the home.

The house is generally in good repair, but steel parts of the structure have rusted and aluminum parts have oxidized.

Can collectors have already donated vintage cans to help in the restoration, and brewers may be asked to reproduce discontinued cans.

There are plans to install lighting to brighten up the fence and to add a vine-covered trellis to replace trees that were removed.

Did a 'CSI effect' affect Robert Blake's jurors?

BY ANDREW BLANKSTEIN
AND JEAN GUCCIONE
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — After listening to testimony for three months in a Van Nuys, Calif., courtroom, postal worker Lorie Moore thought her duty as a juror was clear. She would vote to convict Robert Blake for the murder of his wife, Bonny Lee Bakley.

But when a first vote was taken with the majority, having deliberations, Moore realized there was not the majority opinion. She was one of only two jurors who thought Blake was guilty. Another was undecided.

By the end of the first week, Moore said Thursday, she and the other skeptics were mostly in agreement with the majority, having decided that the evidence presented hadn't proved the prosecution's case.

One factor that may have played into that perception, experts suggest, was an increasing desire on the part of jurors for the kind of certainty shown on television programs such as "Crime Scene Investigation," in which crimes are solved conclusively in less than an hour.

Across the country, prosecutors say, jurors are demanding more from them. In the Blake case, jurors said Thursday that they wanted more convincing evidence, such as conclusive gunshot residue on Blake's hands, or a fingerprint on the murder weapon, or more precision from casual eyewitnesses about Blake's actions around the time Bakley was shot to death in a parked car in Studio City.

"There is no doubt that there's increasing skepticism by jurors of [the evidence] they're going to

see," said Joshua Marquis, an Oregon prosecutor and member of the board of directors of the National District Attorneys Association. "Prosecutors across the country are very concerned about juries that are very dismissive of circumstantial evidence," he said.

"Well guess what? In most cases... you don't have physical evidence." There is "an expectation that people from the crime labs will have super technology" to resolve a case, said Barry Schreck, president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and a member of the O.J. Simpson defense team in Simpson's criminal trial. Nevertheless, Schreck said he thinks the "CSI effect" wasn't a factor in the Blake case.

There was an absence of evidence, he said.

Juror Cecilia Maldonado was among the majority of jurors who said she felt from the beginning that the state had not proven its case.

She said she would have liked more of the kind of evidence she has seen in the cases on "CSI."

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“Prosecutors across the country are very concerned about this.”

Joshua Marquis
National District Attorneys Association



Left: Jamie Foxx is congratulated by actors Sidney Poitier and Diahann Carroll on Saturday after he won the Outstanding Actor in a Motion Picture award for "Ray," at the 36th NAACP Image Awards in Los Angeles. Right: Prince, recipient of the Vanguard Award, performs at the close of the Image Awards.

'Ray' wins four trophies at NAACP Image Awards

BY LYNN ELBER
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The biopic "Ray" about the life of legendary singer Ray Charles won four NAACP Image Awards, including an outstanding actor trophy that added to its star Jamie Foxx's armful of honors.

"Ray" was nominated for a leading seven awards, including outstanding motion picture and outstanding actor in a motion picture for Foxx, who received the best actor Oscar at last month's Academy Awards.

Foxx exchanged long embraces Saturday night with presenters Sidney Poitier and Diahann Carroll as he accepted his NAACP trophy.

The 36th annual Image Awards, which honor films, television, literature and music by and about people of color, were handed out at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. The ceremony was hosted by actor Chris Tucker.

"This has been an absolute wonderful ride," said Foxx, who also won a Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild Award for his portrayal of the music legend.

It was the second year in a row that Ray Charles loomed large at the Image Awards.

which honor works by and about people of color.

He was inducted into the NAACP Hall of Fame in 2004, three months before his death at 73.

Winners were chosen by members of the National Association

for the Advancement of Colored People, the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization.

Other honors for "Ray" included: Kerry Washington, outstanding actress in a motion picture, and Regina King, outstanding supporting actress in a motion picture.

In her acceptance speech, Washington said the country needs the NAACP's activism more than ever.

Speaking at a ceremony that, unlike most other awards shows, eagerly blends politics and entertainment, she warned that the rights of people of color, women and the poor are "in danger of being stripped away."

Academy Award winner Morgan Freeman won the Image Award for supporting actor in his role in the film "Million Dollar Baby."

Kanye West was named outstanding new artist for his album, "College Dropout," while Grammy-winner Usher was honored as outstanding male artist. "American Idol" winner Fantasia was named outstanding female artist.

West was humble in his acceptance speech. "I made some mistakes and I learned from those mistakes," he told the audience, characterizing the past year as "a trip."

U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., received the Chairman's Award, while the Vanguard Award went to pop star Prince. Talk show host and entrepreneur Oprah Winfrey also was inducted into the NAACP Hall of Fame.



AP photos

Award winners

The Associated Press

A list of winners of the 36th annual NAACP Image Awards:

Television Categories
Outstanding comedy series: "The Bernie Mac Show"
Outstanding actor in a comedy series: Bernie Mac, "The Bernie Mac Show"

Outstanding actress in a comedy series: Mo'Nique, "The Parkers"

Outstanding drama series: "Law & Order"
Outstanding actor in a drama series: Taye Diggs, "Kevin Hill"

Outstanding actress in a drama series: Nia Long, "Third Watch"
Outstanding TV movie, mini-series, or dramatic special: "Something the Lord Made"

Motion Picture Categories
Outstanding motion picture: "Ray"

Outstanding actor in a motion picture: Jamie Foxx, "Ray"

Outstanding actress in a motion picture: Kerry Washington, "Ray"

Outstanding supporting actor in a motion picture: Morgan Freeman, "Million Dollar Baby"

Outstanding supporting actress in a motion picture: Regina King, "Ray"

Music Categories
Outstanding new artist: Kanye West, "College Dropout"

Outstanding male artist: Usher, "Confessions"

Outstanding female artist: Fantasia, "Free Yourself"

Outstanding album: "Musicology," Prince

David Lee Garza grabs most Tejano awards

The Associated Press

EAGLE PASS, Texas — Grammy-winning group David Lee Garza y Los Musicales took home the most honors at the 25th annual Tejano Music Awards on Saturday night.

Their "No Puedo Estar Sin Ti" won for Best Song and "Who's That Gringo?" for Best Crossover Song. The group's "Solo Contigo" was honored for Best Conjunto Progressive Album. Jimmy Gonzalez y Grupo Mazz won for Best Tejano Album with "Para Mi Gente."

Shelly Lares won for two categories, female entertainer and female vocalist. Jay Perez won the awards for male entertainer and male vocalist.

The ceremonies were conducted at the Kickapoo Lucky Eagle Casino Complex in Eagle Pass, Texas.



Shelly Lares, winner of female entertainer and vocalist, performs Saturday during the 25th Tejano Music Awards in Eagle Pass, Texas.

along the Texas-Mexico border. It's the first time the awards have been handed out outside San Antonio, considered the capital of Tejano music.

"We're trying everything we can to move forward and bring more young people into Tejano the way it used to be in its glory years," said Tejano Music Awards President Robert Arellano.

Tejano has been hit with a decline in nightclub music, featuring the music, slumping CD sales and radio stations switching to other genres.

Earlier this year, Garza y Los Musicales took home the Grammy for Best Tejano Album with the release "Polkas, Gritos y Acordes."

Grupo Mazz was honored during the Latin Grammys, winning Best Tejano Album for "Live En El Valle."

Robinson's 'Gilead' wins top book prize for fiction

BY HILLEL ITALIE

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — "Gilead," Marilyn Robinson's poetic, modern-day testament of a dying Iowa preacher, won the National Book Critics Circle prize for fiction Friday night.

"I could not be more delighted," said an emotional Robinson, whose novel was her first since she debuted in 1980 with the acclaimed "Housekeeping." Robinson, a faculty member at the University of Iowa's influential Writers' Workshop, praised her school for offering "a wonderful intellectual and spiritual home."

Bob Dylan, a finalist for the biography/autobiography prize for his memoir "Chronicles, Vol. 1," did not attend and did not win. The award instead was given to "De Koening: An American Master," by Mark Stevens and Annalyn Swan. Musk did prevail in the criticism category, with Patrick Neate winning for "Where You're At: Notes From the Frontline of a Hip-Hop Planet."

Diarmuid MacCulloch's "The Reformation: A History" won for general nonfiction, while Adrienne Rich, winner of the National Book Award and other honors in her long career, was cited in poetry for "The School Among the Ruins."

In predicting the fiction prize, Robinson praised critics for wel-

coming a book that was "quiet" and "probably a little arcane." Her novel, written in concise, complex prose, is narrated by John Ames, a preacher suffering from heart disease who looks back at a world for which he feels awe, but also dismay.

Fiction finalists included Philip Roth, a former NBCC winner nominated for "The Plot Against America," his dystopian novel of the United States under a presidency of Charles Lindbergh. Other nominees were Edwidge Danticat's "The Dew Breaker" and two British releases, Alan Hollinghurst's "The Line of Beauty" and David Mitchell's "Cloud Atlas," a Booker finalist.

Books published overseas in English are also eligible for the NBCC prize. The National Book Critics Circle, founded in 1974, is a not-for-profit organization of about 600 book editors and critics.

An NBCC award brings a wealth of prestige, but no actual cash.



West



Dylan

FAA predicts 1 billion air travelers by 2015

Some question whether industry can handle increase

BY LESLIE MILLER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than 1 billion people a year will be boarding planes in the United States within a decade, nearly double the number now using an aviation system showing signs of being overburdened.

The Federal Aviation Administration, which released the forecast Thursday, said spending cuts for runways, air traffic control equipment and buildings. But the agency's administrator, Mariotti Blakey, said she was confident there would be enough money to accommodate the dramatic growth in air traffic.

"We are redesigning airspace, deploying new software that will help increase capacity, and putting new procedures in place," Blakey said. "We will be ready."

Lawmakers and aviation advocates were not so sure.

Building is not keeping up with the increase in passengers, said David Stempler, president of the

Air Travelers Association. "That just spells congestion and delays for passengers."

Already, flights have been limited at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport because too many planes were trying to take off and land, causing delays throughout the country. The FAA negotiated an agreement with airlines to cut 37 daily flights and limit the number of domestic arrivals to 88 an hour between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Ruth Marlin, executive vice president of the air traffic controllers union, said many passengers will do a lot of waiting in 2015 if things do not change.

"The FAA is trying to do more and more with less and less and that is putting an incredible strain on the system," she said.

Sen. Christopher Bond, chairman of the Senate Appropriations subcommittee that oversees transportation spending, has expressed disappointment in the Bush administration's budget proposal for 2006. It would cut money for airport construction

and runways by \$500 million next year, to \$3 billion.

"I am at a loss to understand why this program remains in the sights of the budget gnomes," Bond, R-Mo., said at a hearing this week.

Sen. Patty Murray, the top Democrat on the subcommittee, pointed out the administration has proposed \$7.7 million in cuts for air traffic control modernization, in addition to \$400 million cut this year. In 2004, the FAA was authorized to spend \$2.9 billion.

"All indications are that air traffic will continue to grow," said Murray, D-Wash. "Yet the Bush administration has decided that now is the time to impose dramatic cuts in our investment at improving safety and expanding capacity at our airports."

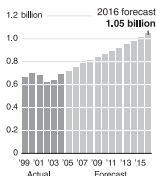
David Plavin, president of the Airports Council International-North America, said the problem is not just the increase in passenger traffic, but that planes are getting smaller.

Small planes place just as

Soaring heights

The Federal Aviation Administration forecasts that annual traffic on U.S. commercial airlines will surpass 1 billion passengers in 2015.

Total scheduled passengers on U.S. commercial airlines



NOTE: Data are for fiscal years beginning in October. 2004 figure is an estimate.

Source: Federal Aviation Administration AP

much a burden on the air traffic system as large planes.

"FAA is chronically underfunded," said Plavin, whose group represents airports. "Some air traffic control towers are chronically understaffed."

But Blakey said the dollars for airport runways and buildings would still be twice what it was in the late 1990s, when airports received about \$1.5 billion. In September, she said, the FAA assessed airport authorities capital needs and found they were 15 percent lower than the year before.

New car feature keeps an eye out

BY SUE VORENBERG
Scraps Howard News Service

In the not-too-distant future a driver will zip down the street, coffee cup in one hand, four squirming kids in the back.

She'll take her eyes off the road as she tries to settle the kids down, right as she approaches a busy intersection.

Before she zooms headlong into traffic, however, a special camera in her car will notice the situation. A telltale sound will let her know what's about to happen, so she can get her attention back to where it needs to be — on the road.

Such a device isn't the realm of science fiction. Scientists at Los Alamos National Laboratory have developed software that could make the technology standard issue — for about \$200 a pop — on new cars in the next five to 10 years, said Lakshmi Prasad, who is working on the project.

"We thought it could be a tremendous help if computers could see around you and tell you, 'Hey, you're about to jump and stop sign,'" Prasad said. "To do that we had to learn how to mimic how humans so cleverly process visual information and know what to pay attention to."

Prasad and Alexei Skourikhine, another lab scientist, have been developing the technology since the late 1990s and say their work is just about ready for prime time.

"They're looking for commercial partners to take it out of the lab and into a busy driver's car, they said.

"There's information overload today," Prasad said. "We have lots of devices around us like cameras and computers to process it, but nothing to process it all. This technology can help people sort out information when they're tired or overloaded. It has a lot of promise."

The device made of the software and special cameras could also help high-speed trains avoid hitting cars by watching tracks far ahead and identifying obstructions, the two said.

"The technology is much more sensitive than the human eye — especially after several hours of driving," Prasad said.

Transmitting images from fixed cameras raises even more possibilities, Prasad said.

The software converts complex visual data into a series of simple shapes that can be easily transmitted over cell phones or the Web. It also recognizes what the shapes are based on patterns programmed into the system by Prasad and Skourikhine, they said.

"A truck driver might be interested in a situation where 50 miles down the road," Skourikhine said. "Because these [simple shapes] don't use a lot of bandwidth, cameras could transmit that data to the driver's truck so he could see what he's approaching."

Extreme sailor describes around-the-world trip

BY RYAN LENZ
The Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Maine — The sailor who hocked his house and ran up hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt preparing for an around-the-world solo race returned to Maine on Thursday to visit schoolchildren who followed his every move.

Bruce Schwab, who became the first American to complete the Vendée Globe with a ninth-place finish last month, said during a visit to Brunswick High School that he was proud of completing the race despite the debt and fatigue.

"It's one thing to do a sailboat race if it's just for yourself. But to know that people are getting something out of it, well that pretty much closes the circle on it," said Schwab, a 43-year-old yacht rigger from Oakland, Calif. "And once I set a goal for myself, I went around every corner and turned over every stone."

The Vendée Globe began Nov. 7 in France with boats sailing south to the Cape of Good Hope before heading into the treacherous Southern Ocean. The route took the sailors south of Australia and within a few hundred miles of Antarctica before rounding Cape Horn for the final run back to France.

Teachers and students used the Internet to follow the Vendée Globe and track Schwab's sloop, Ocean Planet. The Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Science in Boothbay Harbor created Web-based classroom lessons based on the race.

Operating on a barebones budget and without insurance on his boat, which ultimately demanded that he sail "very conservatively," Schwab said he and the nonprofit foundation setup to finance the race now owe about \$50,000.

"I wound up having to seek individual support, and that grew more into just asking people for money. It grew into really bringing



PORTLAND (MAIN PRESS HERALD) AP

Standing in front of images of his trip around the world, Bruce Schwab, the first American to complete the Vendée Globe with a ninth-place finish last month, talks about his adventure Thursday during a visit to Brunswick High School in Maine.

them along," said the untanned Schwab. "But I really want to get back on even footing."

In the meantime, the personal expenses and connections to the students during the race have made the race rich in payoff, he said.

Alicia Young, a 12-year-old from Wiscasset, watched Schwab on the Web and corresponded with him over e-mail during the 109-day venture.

"The best was watching him sail and to finally see him finish," said Young, one of about 200 students who listened to Schwab's presentation in the high school auditorium, where a large banner read "Awesome Job Bruce."

Prior to Schwab, the only American to make a nonstop solo circumnavigation was Dodge Morgan of Harpswell, Maine, who did it in 1985-86 in 150 days.

Schwab's trip came 13 years after fellow countryman Mike Plant was lost at sea during the race. Plant's overturned Coyote boat was found by a container ship in the North Atlantic in the inaugural Vendée Globe in 1989-90.

Schwab said he wasn't sure whether he would sail the Vendée Globe again but already has turned his attention toward the Transat Jacques Vabre, a race from the western coast of France to Brazil.

"I have an open mind," Schwab said.

FACES



Fox News Channel news anchor Steve Doocy, right, calls to Winn-Dixie, a star of "Because of Winn-Dixie" on the set of the "Fox and Friends" morning show in New York on Friday. Doocy and guest co-host Kathie Lee Gifford were interviewing Anna Sophia Robb, who also appears in the film.



Lauryn Hill, left, and Wyclef Jean

Fugees reunite for show

Lauryn Hill and Wyclef Jean, former members of the Fugees, reunited onstage in an adrenaline-charged charity concert for tsunami victims in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

An enthusiastic crowd of 15,000 people attended Friday's seven-hour "Force of Nature" show at Stadium Putra, which raised more than \$2.6 million to rebuild tsunami-devastated communities in Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and India.

"This is history in the making," said Jean, kneeling in front of Hill. "Do you all understand what's happening on this stage? I'm too emotional right now."

Jean also delivered the night's most poignant moment. While gently chanting "we'll never forget the tsunami victims," he instructed the stadium lights to be turned off while the audience waved lighted cell phones in the darkness.

School honors Miller

The University of Michigan regents have approved the design for the 250-seat **Arthur Miller Theatre**, honoring the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and 1938 graduate who died last month.

The theater plan that won approval Thursday will be part of a new \$42.5-million Western Michigan Drama Center at the Ann Arbor school.

Miller attended Michigan during the height of the Depression and said he did so because it cost only \$65 a year.

Swank's fine ruled on

A New Zealand court ruled on **Hilary Swank's** appeal of a \$150 fine for bringing fruit into a country and the decision was sent to the actress in a letter, a court spokeswoman said.

Swank was fined on Jan. 15 after she failed to declare an apple and an orange in her handbag when she arrived at Auckland International Airport.

A court reviewed Swank's case in private Friday after she wrote a letter defending her actions and appealing the fine.



Swank

Thousands of visitors arriving in New Zealand are slapped with on-the-spot fines each year for not declaring agricultural products such as fruit. Few contest the fines.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Young actress gets a big boost

Flick 'Because of Winn-Dixie' raises profile of Anna Sophia Robb

BY ROBERT DENERSTEIN

Scraps Howard News Service

The acting bug often bites early, but in the case of Anna Sophia Robb, it has been buzzing around her cradle.

The 11-year-old developed the acting itch between ages 2 and 3.

"I saw people on TV and I loved being around people and performing," said Robb. "I loved to pretend. I think that's really what got me going."

The young actress experienced a considerable boost in her profile with the release of "Because of Winn-Dixie," a Wayne Wang-directed adaptation of a much-admired Kate DiCamillo novel about a girl and her dog. The movie debuted last month in the States.

And come summer, Robb will receive even more attention when she's seen in Tim Burton's eagerly awaited "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," playing Violet Beauregarde to Johnny Depp's Willie Wonka in this remake.

"I read the book before I knew I was going to do the movie," said Robb of "Winn-Dixie." "It had a seriousness — if that's a word — that kids could understand. ... Little kids can start understanding what they might have to deal with in life."

The movie tells the story of Opal Buloni (Robb), a girl who moves to a small Southern town (the movie was filmed in Louisiana) with her preacher father (Jeff Daniels). Opal's alcoholic mom split years ago, leaving Opal lonely and friendless, a condition exaggerated by a move to a new town. Enter Winn-Dixie, a rambunctious Pecos shepherd. The dog befriends Opal, and life begins to turn around.

Wearing a sweater, a jean-skirt and a tan pair of Uggs for an interview that took place

in the children's reading room of the main branch of the Denver Public Library, the self-possessed Robb had no trouble answering questions. Is she anything like Opal? Not really.

"My mom (an interior designer) is wonderful. My dad (an architect) talks to me a ton. I don't have a big dog. I have a little one."

To land the role, Robb competed against 650 young actors who submitted audition tapes. She was called to Los Angeles, met the director and eventually traveled to Louisiana for a screen test.

Before "Winn-Dixie," Robb had been in a short film and had done commercial work.

"When I had an agent in Denver, I was doing commercials and voiceovers. Just little things. Then I started my acting classes ... I had gymnastics three to six hours a week.

Then I'd go swimming. I had Irish step dance. I had voice. And school. It was very busy. As soon as I went out to L.A., it was all dropped. I quit Irish dance. I quit gymnastics."

Robb is now schooled by her mother and by tutors on the set. She takes voice and piano lessons.

"I go swimming for P.E.," she said. "I go snowboarding whenever I have a chance."

Not that she's had much time lately for sliding down hills. After "Winn-Dixie," Robb traveled to Canada to make a TV movie — "Summer: An American Girl Holiday" — about a girl who learns to be a proper Victorian young lady. Next came London.

"For 'Charlie,' they asked me if I could

come to London for a half a year. I said, 'Sure, I'll go.' So we packed up our stuff and left."

London meant working with Depp. "At first I was a little nervous."

Then you meet him. He's this totally normal guy. ... Kind of quiet. A wonderful actor. It's kind of scary in the movie, watching him be Willie Wonka and then he can snap right out of it and be Johnny."

Aside from having a pigeon lodge its foot in her mouth during the shooting of a pet-shop scene

"Winn-Dixie," things seem to be going quite well for Robb. And she hasn't forgotten the little people, which in her case is literally true. We're talking about kids.

"When I come home after a film, they (friends) think it's cool. I miss them and they miss me. It's good to see them every now and again."

As mature as Robb can sound, there are limits to what she's allowed to do. Take movies, for example.

"When I heard that Wayne Wang was the director of 'Winn-Dixie,' my dad said, 'Oh, we'll watch all his films.' We looked him up on IMDb (Internet Movie Data Base). The movies were rated PG-13 and R. I was 9 at the time. I think in a couple of more years I'll be able to watch them."

Her own movie tastes seem well-defined.

"I like anything, really, as long as it's not cheesy and always happy. I like more dark stories. I like stuff that has a happy ending, but isn't sugary sweet. I love the Harry Potter movies and the books. I love the 'Lord of the Rings' stories and 'The Incredibles.' "

"I saw people on TV and I loved being around people and performing. I loved to pretend. I think that's really what got me going."

Anna Sophia Robb
actress

\$50 kidnapping

FL **FORT MYERS** — Three teenagers kidnapped a 15-year-old and ordered his father to drop off a \$50 ransom at a Taco Bell restaurant, authorities said. The father called police, instead, and the teens were arrested.

Police said the dispute began over \$50 that David Gibbs, 15, owed to Joseph Garrett, 17. Gibbs went to Garrett's apartment, and Garrett asked him to repay the money, police said.

Gibbs couldn't pay up, so Garrett and two other teens punched him in the face and held him at knifepoint, then forced him to phone his father and ask him to drop the money in a planter at the Taco Bell, police said.

Gibbs, Aidoo, 16, and Victoria Aidoo, 15, were arrested. Garrett turned himself in the next day.

Tuna protection plan

HI **HONOLULU** — The council responsible for managing the fisheries of the western Pacific Ocean has come up with an initial plan to help prevent overfishing of bigeye tuna, a favorite of Japan's sashimi market.

Only about 5 percent of the bigeye tuna harvested from the Pacific is caught in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone — the waters between three and 200 miles off the coasts of Hawaii, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands.

In December, the National Marine Fisheries notified the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council that bigeye tuna is being overfished and ordered the council to come up with a plan by June 14, when the council will next meet to address overfishing.

Although the council's initial plans are enforceable only within the U.S. waters, the council included recommendations for foreign vessels as well.

Tribe short of water

SD **SIOUX FALLS** — Some 14,000 residents of the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation could run out of water by August because of a drought along the Missouri River basin, officials said.

The tribe's list of potential problems stretches from health concerns to firefighting. The reservation's schools and its only hospital and clinic would have to close.

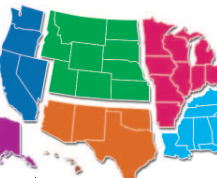
"It will be more than just running out of water for a couple of days. There will be 14,000 people that have no water whatsoever," said Wayne Ducheneaux, a tribal official and member of a task force working to come up with a water plan.

Poverty on the reservation is complicating the matter, said Rebecca Kidder, a lawyer for the tribe.

Oceans get loud

MA **BOSTON** — The ocean was flat and the winter darkness over Cape Cod Bay was unbroke by ship lights. But below the bay's surface, Christopher Clark found things weren't as serene as they seemed.

The bay is saturated with sound. "It's just a great, big amphithe-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

ater," said Clark, a Cornell bioacoustics scientist who monitored the bay with underwater listening devices.

The sound carrying through the bay that evening was part of an ever louder manmade din that's filling the world's oceans, and some say harming marine life.

High-profile whale beachings have been linked to sonar blasts and sparked fierce public debate over the military's use of sound in national defense. But a broader concern for scientists is rising levels of ocean background noise, much of it generated by commercial shipping, and whether it interferes with the way the entire sea has operated for eons.

Hearing is the primary sense for marine life, which uses sound for navigation and communication.

Nurse donates kidney

MO **ST. LOUIS** — Kay Plözicka, 34, found it hard to see her patients suffering when she was blessed with such good health.

So the dialysis center nurse offered one of her kidneys to 58-year-old Joe Cline, who accepted. The transplant surgery was performed March 8.

"I am a religious person. That had some role in it," said Plözicka, of Litchfield, Ill., about an hour

east of St. Louis.

"But I wanted to give back to someone a gift like the gift that I had gotten."

Plözicka said she knew after becoming a dialysis nurse five years ago that she would probably donate a kidney to a patient one day. Her only requirement was that the recipient had to commit to a lifetime regimen of anti-rejection medicine.

She believed Cline would be diligent because he desperately wanted to live for his 5-year-old grandson, Hunter.

"I wanted to see if I could get him to the goal of being there for Hunter, his wife, and his daughter," she said.

Diving pig dies

TX **AUSTIN** — An electrical problem may be to blame for the death of a stunt-diving pig at the Star of Texas Fair and Rodeo.

The animal known as "Big Red" died after diving off a platform into a heated pool as part of Randall's High Diving Pig Show.

The pigs have performed the stunts many times, but owner Virgil Randall said he has had trouble with the pool's electricity recently.

Rodeo officials were investigating the death.

Deer harvest declines

PA **HARRISBURG** — Hunters killed more than 409,000 deer during the 2004-05 deer season, a 12 percent drop from the previous season, the state Game Commission said.

The estimate released is the sixth highest since 1986, when the agency began compiling deer-harvest statistics.

"What these harvest figures reinforce is what we've been hearing from many hunters — they didn't see or harvest as many deer this past hunting season in some areas," said Calvin W. DuBrook, the commission's wildlife management bureau director.

The commission will use the estimates when it meets on April 25 and 26 to give final approval to schedules and bag limits for the 2005-06 hunting season.

Teen alcohol loophole

VA **RICHMOND** — A bill written to put liquor off-limits to youthful drinkers at private parties could permit boozey prom parties or frat bashes right out of "Animal House," groups opposed to teen drinking contend.

Even the bill's sponsor, Del. Rob Bell, wants the governor to amend a sentence in his legislation to fix the problem, and the Washington-based Beer Institute supports the request.

"The amendment by the governor would be a good idea because it would make sure the courts know you can't serve liquor to kids unless their parents are there," said Bell, R-Albemarle.

"But if you put a keg in your back yard and everyone comes over for it, that's the sort of thing we're trying to stop," he said.

The law now allows people who hold parties in their own homes to serve alcohol to anyone regardless of age.



Hold on! Alexander Rober, from Bend, Ore., wrestles a steer to the ground to score an 8.2 in the first go around at the Dodge National Finals Circuit Rodeo in Pocatello, Idaho.

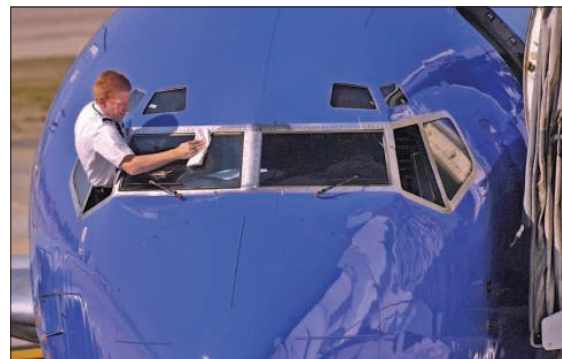


Dedicated team Members of the Virginia High School girls track team jog through the snow as they practice in Olcott Park in Virginia, Minn. The team took advantage of the mid-20 degree temperatures to get in a couple miles of outdoor training.



Lone fisherman

A lone fisherman tries his luck in the waters of the Mississippi River near Lock and Dam #11 in Dubuque, Iowa.



He does windows

First officer Mark Fisher leans out the window of a Boeing 737 to clean his half of the front windows prior to the Southwest Airlines flight leaving Birmingham, Ala., bound for New Orleans. The captain of the aircraft, Steve Little, did his half earlier.



I spy a spy!

Hilton Head Elementary School second-graders Garrett Von Minden, right, and Matthew Mehlinger came dressed as FBI agents to the school's career day on Hilton Head Island, S.C. Von Minden said he chose to be an agent because "you can spy and arrest people."



Waiting patiently

Allendale Elementary students and members of the school's dance company wait to meet South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford during his tour in Allendale, S.C.



Good times

Tibetan monks from the Drepung Loseling Monastery laugh as they walk together following a special water ceremony along Little Sugar Creek in Charlotte, N.C.

Giant squid mystery

CA DANA POINT — The mystery of the giant squid is deepening.

Dead jumbo squid are again washing up along Orange County's coastline, baffling scientists who are trying to find out why.

The Ocean Institute in Dana Point has conducted some of the research, shipping specimens to the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and Stanford University for further study.

Scientists at the institute dissected a 5-foot-long, 15-pound female Humboldt squid that was filled with parasites and sand. More than a 100 squid have been spotted between Dana Point and San Clemente.

Still, there are no answers. Scientists believe the squid are swimming north from Mexico to follow food sources, forcing them to come closer to the surface and shore. Squid normally live and hunt 3,000 feet below the water's surface.

Cow pie wildfire probe

CO LONGMONT — Authorities are investigating whether Forest Service workers can be charged with arson for a 900-acre wildfire that was ignited after gusty winds carried flaming cow dung outside a controlled burn site.

Weld County District Attorney Ken Buck said he received several complaints from farmers and ranchers in the Pawnee National Grassland area, where the Forest Service was conducting a controlled burn of prairie weeds March 11.

Callers complained the fire shouldn't have been set because of high winds, and that the fire endangered farm property.

No marriage for cousins

PA HOLLIDAYSBURG — A county judge refused to make an exception for two first cousins who want to marry, even though the couple assured the judge they don't want to have children.

Blair County Judge Jolene Kopriva denied the marriage license application for first cousins Eleanor Amrhein, 46, and Donald W. Andrews Sr., 39, of Logan Township.

The couple say they have been together for several years, but Kopriva said state law bars first cousins from marrying because of an increased likelihood their children will have birth defects.

Kopriva told the couple her ruling would not prevent them from being married in another state that permits it.

About half of the states allow first cousins to marry, according to www.statecne.org, a Web site on state laws.

Wholesome cheerleading

TX AUSTIN — The Friday night lights in Texas could soon be without bumptin' and grindin' cheerleaders.

Legislation filed by state Rep. Al Edwards of Houston would put an end to "sexually suggestive" performances at high school athletic events and other extracurricular competitions.

"It's just too sexually oriented,

you know, the way they're shaking their behinds and going on, breaking it down," said Edwards, a 26-year veteran of the Texas House.

Under Edwards' bill, if a school district knowingly permits such a performance, state funds would be reduced in an amount to be determined by the education commissioner.

Edwards said he filed the bill after seeing several instances of such risqué performances in his district.

Sex abuse alleged

NY A man who was charged with raping and sodomizing seven children in Queens has confessed to assaulting more children, authorities said.

Michael Flory, 48, was arraigned on five charges of rape, criminal sexual acts and sexual abuse against five girls and two boys aged between 7 and 11 years old. Some of them lived near Flory's former home in College Point section of Queens.

He allegedly raped, sodomized and otherwise sexually abused the children in his home and in his van.

Authorities are investigating whether he assaulted any of the three children he has with his wife, with whom he lives in West Hempstead in Long Island.

School drug testing

HI HONOLULU — Mid-Pacific Institute will become the first school in Hawaii to begin testing students for drug use when a voluntary, confidential program begins next fall at the private school in Manoa.

The administration mailed letters announcing the program to parents and posted information on the school's Web site. About 1,170 students in grades six through 12 would be eligible for testing.

A student and his or her parents must agree the student should be subjected to the random tests, said high school principal Richard Schaffer.

The program is intended to "gently force a discussion between parents and students," said school president Joe Rice. Parents, not the school, will be informed of results of the urine tests, he said.

Playground memorial

IN CROTHERSVILLE — A school playground with equipment resembling a small castle and treeshouse will serve as a memorial for a 10-year-old girl who was abducted and drowned after happening upon people making methamphetamine.

The plans for the new playground were announced at Crothersville Community School after designers spent the day talking with students about their ideas for the memorial for Katlyn "Kate" Collman.

The fifth-grader was abducted Jan. 25 while returning home in the town about 40 miles north of Louisville, Ky., after running an errand. Her body was found five days later, in a creek north of Seymour.

Charles Hickman, 20, has been charged with murder and criminal confinement.

Stories and photos from wire services

OPINION

Checkpoints force split-second decisions

BY PAUL RIECKHOFF

For troops serving in Iraq, few decisions are black and white. Every day is a world of gray.

This month's shooting death of Italian intelligence agent Nicola Calipari at an American military checkpoint was a mistake that unveiled the enormity of the demands we place upon our troops every day in Iraq.

When I served in Iraq, I understood the tremendous responsibility I had as an American soldier. I knew that every single thing I did reflected the face of America to the world. The weight of this knowledge made serving in Iraq hard for me, and all of my fellow soldiers. Conveying what that responsibility felt like to civilians was even harder.

Think about it. Not only do our troops have to be concerned with roadside bombs, protecting their buddies, rocket-propelled grenade attacks, avoid civilian casualties, struggling to pay their bills, and the back-draft, but they also have to worry about being crucified by the world press afterwar. No wonder roughly 1 in 5 troops returns home with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Our troops live in a fishbowl for all to see — the ultimate in reality TV. And they face a crucible, not in the threat of the insurgency, but in the world's largest peanut gallery on the press. I am sure Green Bay Packers Quarterback Brett Favre can empathize, to a degree, with the scrutiny our troops face. But the pressure of making a big play in the fourth quarter of the Super Bowl is nothing compared with the anxiety that a young soldier experiences at a checkpoint in Iraq. Our troops deal with the greatest gathering

of Monday-morning quarterbacks this planet has ever seen.

Put yourself in our shoes. Imagine looking down the barrel of your weapon and deciding whether to shoot a white sedan, at three in the morning, barreling toward your squad, the day after your best friend was killed by a car bomb on the same road.

This is the colossal task we are asking our sons and daughters to complete in our name: to brave incredible personal danger while diplomatically executing U.S. foreign policy in Arabic before the world media. They have done everything we have asked of them, and then some.

So, to those who are eager to throw judgment at our people in uniform, I ask you: please slow down. This is not the Michael Jackson trial, and you were not there. You were not in that car, or behind that machine gun. And until a thorough investigation is conducted, our soldiers deserve at least the benefit of the doubt.

Giuliana Sgrena, the Italian journalist who speculates that she was targeted by the American military at the checkpoint, noted, "For [the Americans], war is war, human life doesn't count for much."

Ma'am, this could not be further from the truth. Please do not blame the warriors for a war that you oppose.

We, the American soldiers, do value human life — tremendously. We see it wrenched from our Iraqi and American friends every day. But mistakes do happen in war, and we will replay them in our heads forever. We often put ourselves at tremendous risk in order to keep Iraqi civilians safe. I wonder how many times Ms. Sgrena has taken off her helmet and body armor in



Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi, left, looks on as images of the funeral of Italian intelligence agent Nicola Calipari are shown, at right, during the RAI network TV show "Porta a Porta" hosted by Bruno Vespa. Calipari was killed by American forces in Iraq during the release of abducted journalist Giuliana Sgrena.

a crowded meeting with a local imam in order to demonstrate her trust and support.

During my tour as an infantryman in Iraq, I manned and commanded hundreds of checkpoints. I never saw any American soldier deliberately target civilians — Iraqi, Italian or otherwise. And if I had, I guarantee you that those soldiers would be serving time in Leavenworth right now. Not only is Ms. Sgrena's statement wrong, but also it is insulting. We soldiers are not cold-hearted, baby-killing robots.

Everyone in Iraq is scared — not just the civilians.

The death of the Mr. Calipari is a terrible

tragedy for all involved. But the American soldiers deserve a fair hearing without having to face baseless claims assailing their professionalism and moral judgment. Our soldiers are patriots caught in the ultimate Catch-22: We are America's sons and daughters doing the best we can, and playing out our cards, despite the very tough hand we have been dealt. We are trying desperately to avoid both killing innocent civilians and coming up in a box ourselves.

Paul Rieckhoff served as an Army Infantry Platoon Leader in Iraq with the 3rd Infantry and 1st Armor divisions. He is now the Executive Director of Operation Truth, an Iraq Veterans group that advocates on behalf of troops and veterans.

‘In our prayers’: No deference to spiritual essence

You're in our prayers." I have noticed this phrase being offered more and more lately.

Whether coming from newscasters, movie stars, politicians and other public figures as in,

Betsy Hart

"We're sorry to report that Joe at the station has cancer — Joe, please know you are in our prayers," or, "To all the servicemen and women out there, please know you are in our prayers," to what I've often heard or overheard in private conversations, as in, "I'm so sorry to hear that — know you are in our prayers."

I can't help but worry that "you're in our prayers" has become the new "have a good day." (By the way, it's usually "our prayers" instead of what would be the more accountable "my prayers.") I am not talking here about folks who might say, "Wow, I am really going to pray for you on that." I've been the recipient of such genuine love many times. Nor am I suggesting I can always know what's in the heart of someone who says, "You're in our prayers." That newscaster or movie star or politician might really go home, get on his knees, and pray for the intended. That's great.

I'm just suggesting that "you're in our prayers" is a phrase that today one often hears uttered too casually. I know this most because, even as a professing Christian, I have to admit I have too often been a casual utterer — and I've had to call myself to account on it.

I mean, real prayer means something. It's powerful. At some level we must recognize

it as uniquely so or we wouldn't offer it — even casually — as one of the most comforting things we can say to someone else. "Know you're in our discussion group!" just doesn't cut it.

"You're in our thoughts" is better, but that's almost always coupled with prayer as in, "you're in our thoughts and prayers."

We want the positive benefits of prayer, which we recognize to be powerful. But we too often, it seems, call it down as perhaps only some sort of magical incantation to ward off evil spirits or something.

Ironically I think we can sometimes, as a culture, show what we recognize as being true by what we treat vainly. So, conversely to the positive connotations of "you're in our prayers," people regularly take the names "God" and "Jesus Christ" in vain in either excitement or more often anger. Yet, no one would think to say, "George Washington!"

when he's screaming at his computer, or say, "Steve damn it!" when his car has broken down. Because no one believes there is any power in such names, so there is no point in taking them in vain.

And so back to the "prayer" front. I'm not at all sure if the "you're in our prayers" language is more common than it used to be, or if I'm just noticing it more.

What is clear is that we live in an increasingly secular age. Yet when almost anyone is confronted with a person he cares about who is in pain or sadness, no matter what the religious beliefs or practice of either of them — he believes that the most powerful thing he can say, the thing that will offer by far the most comfort and assurance, is "know that you are in our prayers."

I'm not at all suggesting we stop offering such assurance. I am suggesting that every time we hear that phrase, and especially

every time we say it, we really think about it. If we believe that true prayer is really powerful, if we believe it offers assurance or comfort when we promise it to others, then we should be careful to not leave it just as words but to pray and pray rightly for the person for whom the prayer was promised.

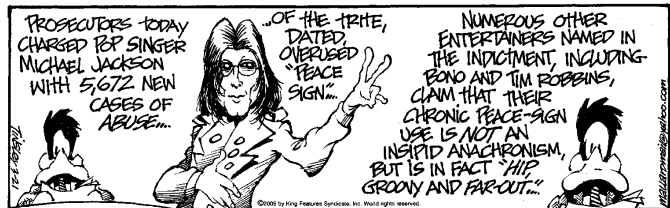
If we have no intention of genuinely lifting up that person in true prayer, then we have no right to offer such words of comfort — for they are rendered empty.

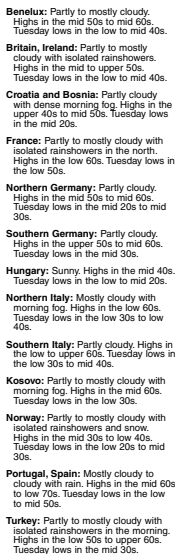
I also can't help but find it fascinating that a culture that largely disdains God is so used to hearing people, even people on the national stage with no known religious beliefs, so regularly appeal to the power of prayer. Perhaps it is that we want that power of prayer — but religious or not, we too often don't want what the powerful God behind true prayer requires of us.

Betsy Hart is a frequent commentator on CNN and Fox News Channel.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY





Check our Relocation Guide
every Saturday to find
Realtors at your new station.

STARS AND STRIPES®
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Horoscope

Mercury, now retrograde, plays a trick or two before the day is out. It's as if the universe has handed out a pop quiz titled: How Organized Are You, Really? If you've set up a system that involves others, just be sure they understand it, too. The results of communication are precarious at best, but this improves when you write things down.

Holiday Mathis



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 21). You have a knack for knowing which is the most fruitful action to take, so you get what you want quickly this year! On your road to success, it's lucky to bring along your friends every way you can. You'll be hiring, inviting and inspiring those close to you. Cancer and Sagittarius are wonderful partners for romance. The best time to travel is May.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A house is only as sturdy as its foundation. A car is only as fast as its engine. And you are only as effective as your mind. On this day filled with distractions, mentally imagine yourself winning, and then, continue on.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A test situation is not real life, but it's a solid indicator of how real life will go down when you're in the heat of the fire. Create a drill to thoroughly prepare yourself for an upcoming stressful situation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's a raw and gritty feeling about all you witness today. Other air signs help you avoid getting sucked into a "downer" mood. The naked truth doesn't have to be sad — it can also make you laugh out loud.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Opportunities only arise when you consciously put yourself in line for them. So buy your ticket, and step right up. Love is complicated enough. Finding potential partners should be the easy part.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Ro-

mance is only one kind of love. Platonic affection, admiration for a mentor, familial connection and spiritual bonds are also sources of great fulfillment. Let love in its many forms lift you higher.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You consider a situation, territory or person to be yours. But much that we lay claim to cannot be owned. Realize this, act accordingly, and you are fantastically lucky.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22). It feels like you're sneaking around in order to avoid hurting someone's feelings. Trust your instincts on this one, although down deep, you know you've got a right to love whomever you choose.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've got it all over the competition, and you know it. Don't gloat! There is still room for improvement. Keep a private journal of your strengths and all the ways you're different from your rival.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The tumultuous emotions in the air affect you for sure. But staying in a good mood is not rocket science. Spending time with someone sunny still puts a smile on your face.

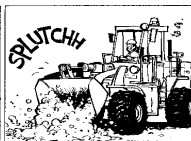
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You need to build your self-esteem more than you need to accomplish heaps of work. Make success an easy and doable process! Break projects down into smaller tasks. You're trying to do too much too fast.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The best opportunities are ones removed from your immediate resources: Contacts made through your children's friends, your friends' friends and your colleagues' friends are the luckiest.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Negotiations are featured. You are up against an operator who is much smoother than appearances suggest. (Think Monk or Columbo!) Don't put anything on the table unless you're willing to lose it.

Creators Syndicate

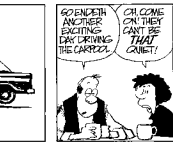
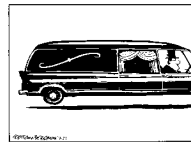
Calvin and Hobbes



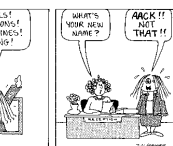
Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



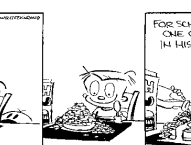
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



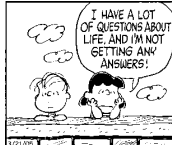
Red Rover



Better or Worse



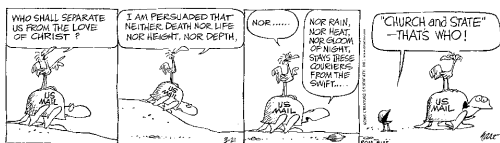
Peanuts



Footrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



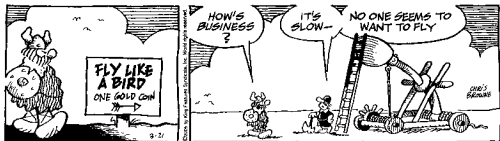
Blondie



Dilbert



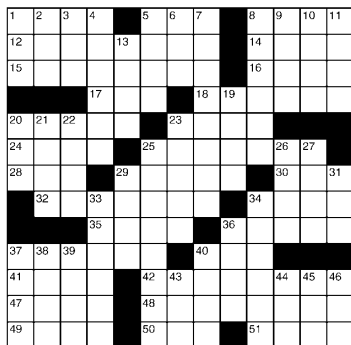
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Lotion additive
- 5 Barnyard call
- 8 Nile bird
- 12 Petula Clark
- 14 Zilch
- 15 Cheeriness
- 16 Oversupply
- 17 Lubricant
- 18 Prison official
- 20 Pictorial poser
- 23 Easy stride
- 24 Figure-skating jump
- 25 Dark solar area
- 28 — culpa
- 29 "Oops!"
- 30 Princess' insomnia cause
- 32 Soda-shop treats
- 34 Authentic
- 35 Picks a target
- 36 Thick
- 37 Environment
- 40 Bran source
- 41 Pastoral opus
- 42 Old timers?
- 47 — gin fizz
- 48 Snail
- 49 See to
- 50 Away from NNW
- 51 Uncomplicated

Down

- 1 Commercial
- 2 Bud's partner
- 3 Possess
- 4 Imbue with spirit
- 5 Seethe
- 6 Grain bristle
- 7 Windflowers
- 8 Marching properly
- 9 Piglet's papa
- 10 Grooving on
- 11 Witnessed movement
- 13 Anything but that
- 19 Basilia area
- 21 Former mates
- 22 Boyfriend
- 23 Olympic coasters
- 25 Detectives (SI.)
- 26 Admitting clients
- 27 Afternoon socials
- 29 Garfield's pal
- 31 Stout's cousin
- 33 Got down pat
- 34 Go to bed
- 36 Iconoclastic art
- 37 Atomizer output
- 38 Between jobs
- 39 Mount Holyoke founder Mary
- 40 Erstwhile
- 43 Constitution letters
- 44 Khan L.A.
- 45 Section of L.A.?
- 46 Sloppy place

Answer to Previous Puzzle



3-21

CRYPTOQUIP

FE RSKVXSV RGSPV B
RBHRBCV . ISXIVMXVA
JVSJVPV ISHPA WVPJ PSSL

ESM GWV KFRFXC PFXL.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: TO DETERMINE IF A GOLF PLAYER IS REALLY GOOD, I SUPPOSE THE PROOF IS IN THE PUTTING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals S

SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Monday

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.-Pro football: Arena Football League, teams TBD (td).
AFN-Sports, 2 p.m.-College basketball: Invitational, final round (td).
AFN-Sports, 4 p.m.-Baseball: Spring training, Boston vs. LA Dodgers.

Tuesday

AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.-Bowling: PA Banquet (td).
AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.-College basketball: NBA 2nd round, teams TBD.
AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.-Pro basketball: Orlando Magic vs. Miami Heat (td).
AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m.-College basketball: NCAA 2nd round, teams TBD.
AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.-College basketball: NCAA women's tournament, 2nd-round double elimination, teams TBD.
AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.-Motor racing: Champi- on-off-road racing, Bark River Road Race 2 (td).
AFN-Sports, 10 a.m.-Westing: NCAA Division I championships (td).
AFN-Sports, 1:30 p.m.-Baseball: Spring training, Cleveland vs. Cincinnati (td).
AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.-Baseball: Spring training, Atlanta vs. NY Mets.

All times are Central Europe Time; time did include relevant delay. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.afn.net for more information.

Baseball

Spring Training League

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	Pct.
Toronto	5	6	.450
Los Angeles	7	4	.632
Tampa Bay	9	2	.818
Chicago	6	5	.545
Cleveland	6	5	.545
Chicago	8	3	.692
Cleveland	9	2	.818
New York Yankees	7	4	.632
New York Yankees	7	4	.632
Kansas City	6	5	.545
Seattle	6	5	.545
Seattle	6	5	.545

NATIONAL LEAGUE	W	L	Pct.
San Francisco	11	6	.647
San Francisco	11	6	.647
Colorado	12	5	.706
Colorado	12	5	.706
Atlanta	9	8	.529
Atlanta	9	8	.529
Philadelphia	9	8	.529
Philadelphia	9	8	.529
San Diego	10	6	.625
San Diego	10	6	.625
Chicago	9	7	.562
Chicago	9	7	.562
Milwaukee	9	7	.562
Milwaukee	9	7	.562
Pittsburgh	6	9	.400
Pittsburgh	6	9	.400
Los Angeles	6	9	.400
Los Angeles	6	9	.400
Houston	12	3	.800
Houston	12	3	.800

NOTES: Split-squad games between the standings; games against non-major league teams do not.

Saturday's games
 Baltimore @ Boston
 Toronto @ Houston
 Detroit @ Atlanta (cs) 1
 Cincinnati @ Minnesota 1
 St. Louis @ LA Dodgers 2
 Washington @ Cleveland (cs) 2
 Philadelphia (cs) @ Atlanta (cs) 2
 Tampa Bay @ Philadelphia (cs) 4
 San Diego @ San Francisco (cs) 5
 NY Mets @ Florida 9
 St. Louis @ San Francisco (cs) 3
 LA Angels @ Texas 3
 Arizona (cs) @ Milwaukee 2
 Oakland (cs) @ Chicago White Sox 2
 Chicago White Sox @ Kansas City 2
 San Diego @ St. Louis (cs) 2

Sunday's games
 Houston vs. Florida at Aventura, Fla.
 Cincinnati vs. Toronto at Dunedin, Fla.
 St. Louis vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla.
 Detroit (cs) vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla.
 NY Yankees vs. Tampa Bay at St. Petersburg, Fla.
 St. Louis (cs) vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla.
 Atlanta (cs) vs. Baltimore at St. Petersburg, Fla.
 Chicago Cubs vs. Cleveland at Winter Haven, Fla.
 Philadelphia vs. LA Dodgers (cs) at Vero Beach, Fla.
 St. Louis (cs) vs. Detroit (cs) at Lakeland, Fla.
 LA Dodgers (cs) vs. NY Mets (cs) at Port St. Lucie, Fla.
 St. Louis @ Milwaukee at Phoenix
 San Francisco vs. Oakland at Phoenix
 Cincinnati vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz.
 Seattle vs. Arizona (cs) at Tucson, Ariz.
 Chicago Cubs vs. San Diego (cs) at Phoenix, Ariz.

Chicago White Sox vs. LA Angels at Tempe, Ariz.
 Arizona (cs) vs. San Diego (cs) at Yuma, Ariz.

College basketball

National Invitation Tournament
First Round
 Western Michigan 54, Marquette 40
Tuesday, March 15
 Holy Cross 70, Notre Dame 63
 South Carolina 69, Miami 67
 DePaul 66, Temple 50
 DePaul 75, Missouri 70

Wednesday, March 16
 Texas Christian 60, Miami (Ohio) 58
 Georgetown 67, Boston 34
 Memphis 90, Northeastern 65
 Vanderbilt 67, Indiana 60
 Texas A&M 62, Clemson 55
 Maryland 64, Wake Forest 62
Thursday, March 17
 UNLV 85, Arizona 72
Friday, March 18
 Cal State Fullerton 85, San Francisco 69
Saturday, March 19
 St. Joseph's 55, Buffalo 48
 Davidson 82, Southwest Missouri State 71
 Wichita State 64, Western Kentucky 61
Second Round
 Memphis 83, Virginia Tech 62
 Georgetown 67, Boston 34
 Texas Christian 60, Miami (Ohio) 58
 Holy Cross 70, Notre Dame 63
 Wichita State 64, Western Kentucky 61
 Wichita State 64, Western Kentucky 61
 St. Joseph's 55, Buffalo 48
 Davidson 82, Southwest Missouri State 71
 Davidson 82, Southwest Missouri State 71

Men's NCAA Div. II tournament

Wednesday, March 23
 Dayton 70, St. Joseph's 62
 Tarleton State 24-30 vs. Cal Poly Pomona 24-30
 Metro State 24-30 vs. Virginia Union 27-41
 Lin (28-5) vs. York 27-41
Thursday, March 24
 Bryant/Mt. Union vs. Tarleton State/Cal Poly Pomona
 Metro State/Virginia Union vs. Lynn/Findlay winner
Friday, March 25
 Championship

Men's NCAA Div. III tournament

Friday, March 18
Seminifinal
 Rochester 65, Col 57
 Wis.-Stevens 61, York, Pa. 58
Saturday, March 19
Final
 Calvn 98, York, Pa. 84
 Wis.-Stevens 61, Rochester 49

Men's NAIA Div. I tournament

Quarterfinals
 Sunday, March 20
 Carroll, Mont. 62, St. Xavier 57
 Ky. 87, St. Joseph's 60
 John Brown 58, Biola 56
Seminifinal
 John Brown 58, Biola 56
Final
 John Brown 58, Biola 56

Auto racing

Malaysian GP

Formula One
Sunday
At Sepang International Circuit
Sepang, Malaysia
 Lap lengths: 3.445 miles
 1. Fernando Alonso, Spain, Renault, 56 laps, 1 hour, 31 minutes, 33.73 seconds, 126.561 mph.
 2. Jarno Trulli, Italy, Toyota, 56, 1:31:58.050, 126.561 mph.
 3. Jarno Trulli, Italy, Toyota, 56, 1:31:58.050, 126.561 mph.
 4. Jarno Trulli, Italy, Toyota, 56, 1:31:58.050, 126.561 mph.
 5. Jarno Trulli, Italy, Toyota, 56, 1:31:58.050, 126.561 mph.
 6. Jarno Trulli, Italy, Toyota, 56, 1:31:58.050, 126.561 mph.
 7. Jarno Trulli, Italy, Toyota, 56, 1:31:58.050, 126.561 mph.
 8. Jarno Trulli, Italy, Toyota, 56, 1:31:58.050, 126.561 mph.
 9. Jarno Trulli, Italy, Toyota, 56, 1:31:58.050, 126.561 mph.
 10. Jarno Trulli, Italy, Toyota, 56, 1:31:58.050, 126.561 mph.

TANK McNAMARA

EVERYBODY'S ELIMINATED IN THE NCAA FINAL FOUR. BUT YOU OFFERED ME A CHANCE TO WIN. EXCEPT YOU AND SOMEBODY ELSE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY. YOU COULD BE USING THE COMPUTER COMPANY TO HELP HIM WITH HIS PICKS.

Jack Jacques Villeneuve, Canada, Sauber, 26
 Jason Button, Britain, BAR-Honda, 26
 Michael Schumacher, Britain, BAR-Honda, 26
 Ralf Schumacher, Germany, Ferrari, 26
 Fernando Alonso, Spain, Renault, 26
 Giancarlo Fisichella, Italy, Renault, 26
 Jarno Trulli, Italy, Toyota, 26
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Schilling: Canseco's career 'a sham'

BY HOWARD ULMAN
The Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Curt Schilling believes that Jose Canseco told the truth in parts of his book and said Saturday that the slugger's career was "a sham" because he used steroids.

The Boston Red Sox pitcher spoke publicly for the first time since testifying Thursday during a congressional hearing on steroids and baseball.

Canseco's lawyer, Robert Sausone, responded by noting that steroids were not banned by baseball when Canseco used them.

Sausone also questioned the credibility of Schilling, who backtracked during the hearing from his earlier claims of rampant steroid use in baseball.

"Curt's inconsistencies indicate that he has no clue but supports baseball so he can keep his high-paying job," Sausone said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

In his book, "Juiced," published last month, Canseco named several players, including himself and Mark McGwire, who he said had used steroids.

At the hearing, Schilling sharply criticized Canseco.

"What you saw Thursday, unfortunately, was the result of someone who didn't think a lot in a lot of different instances before he ruined some people's lives," Schilling said Saturday.

"That's not to say that he lied. I don't believe his book is all lies. I believe that there's some



Curt Schilling

truth in it, but that's for each and every one of us to decide."

Schilling said he was wrong in some of his past comments that indicated steroid use in baseball was greater than what he told the committee.

"I made a mistake," Schilling said. "Being called on that [at the hearing] made me actually start to look at the subject matter instead of guess about it."

But Sausone said Schilling "was brought to Washington with the sole purpose that he believed [steroid use] was rampant, and he changes his story."

Schilling said Saturday that 98.3 percent of players passed their tests for steroids. Sausone said "that number is totally misleading" because it was based on a small, random sample.

Schilling also said the public's perception is skewed because of suspicions about high-profile players such as McGwire, Sammy Sosa and Barry Bonds, and Canseco's statement that he used steroids.

In 1998, Canseco became the first player to hit 40 homers and steal 40 bases in the same season.

"He admitted to being a cheater. His whole career was a sham," Schilling said.

Seig: baseball didn't know about possible steroid use 10 years ago

The Associated Press

MESA, Ariz. — Commissioner Bud Selig rejected the notion that baseball officials knew steroids were a problem 10 years ago but did nothing about it.

"It's easy to look back and rewrite history," Selig said Saturday. "People can say that we knew, but I'd like to know on what basis. There certainly is no medical evidence. There was no testing."

Speaking during a spring training game between Milwaukee Brewers and Chicago Cubs, Selig also dismissed the theory that owners looked the other way on steroids because they were happy with the home run boom in the late 1990s.

"I never had an owner say to me, 'I like what you're doing, commissioner. These home runs are helping us.' All this business about you should have known or you could have known, I take very seriously, but the programs have kicked in, and we're going to have to do whatever we have to do to eradicate steroids from our sport," Selig said.

"It's not like we've ignored the problem. You can't minimize the health risk. Baseball is taking this lightly."

Selig admitted that he wished he "knew in 1995 what I know now," but also defended baseball's strict drug-testing policy.

The sport banned steroids in September 2002 and began testing for them with penalties in 2003.

Under a new agreement this offseason, players are tested randomly and a first offense is subject to a 10-day suspension or a fine.

Spring training

"What is the objective here in the 'what if' Selig said. 'The objective is to eradicate steroids from baseball. That's the objective. If these programs do that, isn't that what we're supposed to have done? I'm not going to rest until we eradicate steroids. Whatever it takes to get that done, that's what we're going to do."

Selig and other baseball officials testified Thursday at a congressional hearing on steroids, along with past and present slugers such as Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa and Rafael Palmeiro.

The commissioner said he was surprised that congress got involved so soon after baseball implemented its new testing program on March 3.

"Everybody's sort of patting us on the back," Selig said.

"Now we test year-round, random tests, multiple tests, all the things people had complained about. Am I a little surprised that the new program wasn't at least allowed to work a little bit? We didn't start testing until the 3rd of March. The new program is in force."

"Would I like tougher penalties? I would. They asked me about federal legislation. That is something baseball would not object to. This is a subject of collective bargaining. This is the program that we have. At least it's working," he said.

The commissioner said he wasn't sure how baseball fared in

the court of public opinion during the congressional hearing.

"It's hard for me to assess," Selig said. "Nobody worries more about the image of the sport than I do. I'm proud of our players."

In spring training games:

Orioles 8, Red Sox 0: At Fort Myers, Fla., Daniel Cabrera allowed one hit in five innings for Baltimore.

Tigers 10, Braves (s) 7: At Lakeland, Fla., Andrew Jones homered twice and made two flashy plays in center field, Jones, who drove in five runs, has six homers and 14 RBIs in only 26 at-bats this spring.

Devil Rays 6, Phillies (s) 4: At St. Petersburg, Fla., Hideo Nomo pitched four innings without allowing an earned run.

Yankees (s) 8, Indians (s) 5: At Winter Haven, Fla.,

sore-armed Hideki Matsui hit two long home runs for New York.

Phillies (s) 4, Braves (s) 3: At Kissimmee, Fla., Atlanta starter John Thomson gave up one run and four hits in four innings.

Reds 4, Twins 1: At Sarasota, Fla., Ken Griffey Jr. made his first appearance on defense this year, playing center field for the first five innings.

Blue Jays 7, Astros 4: At Kissimmee, rookie starter Gustavo Gachin pitched four solid innings and Toronto took advantage of six Houston errors.

Nationals 8, Indians (s) 2: At Viera, Fla., Tomo Ohka pitched five strong innings and Cristian Guzman had another good day at the plate for Washington.

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The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Kenny Perry was worried his 44-year-old body might be a little stiff after playing 29 holes. He found nothing had changed Sunday morning, finishing the third round with a 4-under 68 that gave him a three-shot lead over Vijay Singh in the Ray Hilborn Invitational. Perry continued to drive it long and straight, including a 306-yard tee shot on the par-5 16th that left him only a 5-iron into the green for a two-putt birdie that extended his lead.

He was at 10-under 206 and had the 54-hole lead for the first time since the Greater Milwaukee Open two years ago, when Perry was winning just as often every time he played. He looks like he's about to enter one of those hot streaks, which might make it tough on Singh and the rest of the field at Bay Hill.

"My swing is in order," Perry said. "I felt good. I didn't feel stiff and sore like I was worried about."

Singh had to scramble for par on the 16th, and save par from a bunker on the 18th to complete a 69 and remain at 7-under

Perry builds 3-shot lead in Bay Hill

Golf roundup

209. K.J. Choi (70) and Stephen Ames (71) were another shot behind.

Singh came from behind for his only victory this year at the Sony Open. Even if he doesn't catch Perry, Singh was in excellent shape to return to No. 1 in the world.

He can thank Tiger Woods and Ernie Els for that.

Woods, who took back the No. 1 spot two weeks ago by winning at Dorland, hit a tee shot out-of-bounds late Saturday to fall from contention and failed to make up much ground Sunday morning. He made only one birdie to shoot 74, his first error over par on the PGA Tour this year. He was at 1-under 215, nine shots behind.

Els did his damage in the second round Saturday morning when he shot 77. He recovered with a 69 in the third round, but still was 11 shots out of the lead.

Singh will be No. 1 if he finishes in a two-way tie for third, and Woods finishes out of the top 20. He also could get to the top by finishing second, as long as Woods is

out of the top five. Woods was tied for 26th going into the last round.

The tournament has been delayed from the start because of rain Thursday that halted play after only three hours. Some had to play on holes Friday, others fared anywhere from 20 to 36 holes Saturday.

Ochoa gives back some of lead in Safeway International

SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN, Ariz. — Lorena Ochoa gave up a commanding lead with a double bogey on the 16th, finishing with a 1-under 71 to take a one-stroke lead into the final round of the Safeway International.

Johnson leads Toshiba Senior

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — Champions Tour rookie Mark Johnson shot an 8-under 63 to take a three-stroke lead over former University of Houston coach Keith Ferguson after the second round of the Toshiba Senior Classic.

Casey wins TCL Classic

BEILING — England's Paul Casey made a 20-foot birdie putt on the second playoff hole Sunday to beat Paul McGinley of Ireland and win the TCL Classic.

Alonso gives Renault second F1 win of season

The Associated Press

SEBANG, Malaysia — Fernando Alonso won the Malaysian Grand Prix on Sunday to give Renault victories in the first two races of the Formula One season. Jarno Trulli was the runner-up for Toyota's first top-three finish.

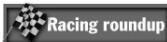
Alonso's teammate, Giancarlo Fisichella, crashed, taking Williams' Mark Webber with him, and seventh-place F1 champion Michael Schumacher earned his first points of 2005 with a seventh-place finish for Ferrari.

Alonso, third in the season-opening Australian Grand Prix behind Fisichella and Ferrari's Rubens Barrichello two weeks ago, dominated from the pole position for his second GP title.

He covered 56 laps of the 3.445-mile Sepang circuit in 1 hour, 31 minutes, 33.76 seconds — 24.3 seconds ahead of Trulli and 32.1 ahead of Williams' Nick Heidfeld, who moved up from 10th place on the starting grid.

Edwards earns first Busch victory in Aaron's 312

HAMPTON, Ga. — Carl Edwards is trying to speed up his



learning curve by racing in two grueling series at the same time.

So far, his busy schedule is working out just fine. Edwards raced to his first NASCAR Busch Series victory Saturday, holding off several Nextel Cup stars in the Aaron's 312 at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

Afterward, he came to a stop in front of the main grandstand, climbed out of his Ford and performed a trademark backflip onto the asphalt, delighting the crowd.

Edwards, who spent most of 2004 in the truck series, moved up to Roush Racing's Nextel Cup team late in the season. He showed plenty of promise with five top-five finishes in 13 races. This year, the 25-year-old Missouri driver is running a full schedule in Busch and Nextel Cup, accelerating his experience level in stock cars.

Clearly, he's not bothered by the hectic pace. Edwards is fifth in the Nextel Cup standings, and Saturday's victory pushed him to the lead in the Busch Series.

U.S. men's soccer team beats Honduras in tuneup

The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Eddie Johnson keeps raising his profile.

Johnson scored late in the first half for his seventh goal in six games with the United States team and the United States beat Honduras 1-0 Saturday in the Americans' final tuneup before next weekend's World Cup qualifier at Mexico.

Goalkeeper Kevin Hartman preserved the shutout when he smothered a kick from Wilmer Velazquez from in front of the goal in the 88th minute.

The United States, 3-0 this year, extended its unbeaten streak to 16 games since a 1-0 loss at the Netherlands on Feb. 18, 2004.

The Americans are unbeaten in 31 games against teams in soccer's North and Central American and Caribbean region since a 2-0 loss at Costa Rica on Sept. 5, 2001.

But those runs could come to an end on March 27, when the Americans play at Mexico, where they are 0-2-1 and will face more than 100,000 hostile fans in the smog and altitude at Mexico City's Azteca Stadium.

Indy Racing League teammates Sam Hornish Jr. (6) and Helio Castroneves run side-by-side on lap 126 of the XM Satellite Indy 200 Saturday at Phoenix International Raceway, Arizona.

Hornish reaches Victory Lane for first time since '04 opener

By MIKE HARRIS

The Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — Suddenly, Sam Hornish Jr. is back on top in Victory Lane, two-time Indy Racing League champion Hornish is back in Victory Lane and back on top of the IndyCar Series standings.

After finishing second in the season-opening race two weeks ago at Homestead, Hornish backed it up Saturday with a hard-earned victory in the XM Satellite Radio Indy 200 at Phoenix International Raceway.

"Really, it's been a tough road over the last year," said Hornish, whose only other victory with the Penske team came in the 2004 season opener at Homestead. "Every time we thought we were turning the corner, something else happened. This start has been a real pleasant surprise."

"Last year, I thought there were a lot of times when we could have done something and I either left a little bit on the table or pushed too hard. What we set out

to do this year is be real consistent and finish every lap, and that's what we've done so far."

Another typical IRL photo finish appeared to be shaping up with two laps to go Saturday before Dario Franchitti gambled and lost.

With Hornish holding a narrow lead over Franchitti after the last of four caution flags in the 200-lap event, the Scotsman tried an outside move on the restart on lap 199 and wound up sliding up the slick one-mile oval and scraping the concrete wall in turn two.

Hornish raced on to his 13th career victory, beating teammate Helio Castroneves to the finish line by 1.04 seconds — about half the final straightaway.

"We threw the dice," Franchitti said, shrugging. "I had to make a move soon and understeered right up into the wall. Sam was just perfect on the restart. He did nothing wrong."

"(Outside) was the only place to go. Sam went low and I wanted to go high and that was the result."

Hornish, who seemed more re-

lieved than excited about his fast start, said, "After I saw what happened to Dario, I knew that I couldn't make any mistakes because Helio was still there behind me. But I knew Dario was my biggest competition and that Helio and I have been pretty evenly matched so far this season."

"It was a heck of a battle, in my opinion, between Dario, Helio and I from about halfway on."

All three of the contenders knew they had to make fuel stops in the final 25 laps and Franchitti was the first to do so, giving up the lead to Hornish when he pitted for tires and fuel on lap 179.

The Penske drivers stayed on track longer, both making fuel-only stops, with Hornish pitting on lap 187 and Castroneves making his stop on lap 190. Franchitti, part of the powerful four-car Andretti Green Racing team that also fields entries for reigning series champ Tony Kanaan, Homestead winner Dan Wheldon and Phoenix pole winner Bryan Herta, found himself second to Hornish when Tomas Scheckter bounced off the wall and brought out the final caution flag on lap 193.

McCain: 'Baseball can't be trusted' on steroid issue

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Saying Major League Baseball "can't be trusted," Sen. John McCain warned Sunday that legislation might be needed to force the sport to change its steroids policy.

The Arizona Republican joined the chorus of congressmen expressing disappointment with baseball's drug-testing plan after testimony from Commissioner Bud Selig and union head Donald Fehr before the House Government Reform Committee hearing on steroids Thursday.

"It just seems to me they can't be trusted," McCain told ABC's "This Week."

"What do we need to do? I see some one that we ought to seriously consider — a law that says all professional sports have a minimum level of performance-en-

Sports briefs

hancing drug testing," McCain said.

Committee chairman Tom Davis, R-Va., said on CBS' "Face the Nation" that he agreed with McCain's suggestion that the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency could be called in to govern baseball's testing.

The independent agency oversees drug testing and discipline for U.S. Olympic athletes.

Davis, whose committee subpoenaed current and former stars and baseball executives to testify Thursday, said he's willing to wait and see how the League Baseball handles drug testing and punishment in 2005.

"They've got this season. We'll

see how they respond when they find someone testing positive," Davis told CBS.

Clijsters wins title; Federer, Hewitt advance to final

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. — Former No. 1 Kim Clijsters defeated top-ranked Lindsay Davenport on Saturday to win her second Pacific Life Open title in three years.

Clijsters, who withdrew during last year's tournament with a wrist injury and missed most of the year, defeated Davenport 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

The top two men's players in the world moved into their final. Lleyton Hewitt outlasted Andy Roddick in a match that went to three tiebreakers, and defending champion Roger Federer continued his dominating run with a quick victory over Guillermo Canas.

Hewitt edged Roddick 7-6 (2), 6-7 (3), 7-6 (4) in a well-played, entertaining night match that lasted 2 hours, 33 minutes. Federer needed just 1:13 to beat Canas.

Pairings announced for NCAA hockey tournament

PORTLAND, Maine — The University of Maine will play against Minnesota in the first round of the NCAA hockey tournament after receiving a No. 4 seed in Sunday's selection announcement.

The Black Bears (20-12-7) will be forced to play at the Gophers' home ice at Mariucci Arena in Minneapolis next Saturday in the West region. The winner of that game will take on the winner of the Ohio State-Cornell semifinal in Sunday's final.

Minnesota (26-14-1) is the top-ranked team in the West region.

Maine and Minnesota met in the national championship game in 2002, with Minnesota coming out on top, 4-3, in overtime.

Boston College is the top seed in the East region, Denver in the Midwest and Colorado College in the Midwest. Each region has four teams.

The regionals get under way next Friday, with the Frozen Four final taking place in Columbus, Ohio, beginning April 7 with the finals on April 9.

Norway's Roemer sets ski flying world record

PLANICA, Slovenia — Norway's Bjorn Einar Roemer set a world ski flying record for a second time Sunday, leaping 239 meters to win a World Cup event.

Ahonen jumped 240 meters during the last round but fell. He was briefly hospitalized but returned.



Morales wins bloody brawl

BY TIM DAHLBERG

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS—Manny Pacquiao fought desperately as blood flowed from a bad cut over his right eye. Against another fighter it may have been enough, but Erik Morales was not just another fighter.

Morales, fighting with the cool precision of a champion who has been there many times before, got the better of Pacquiao with jabs and big right hands Saturday night to win a close but unanimous decision in their 130-pound showdown.

No title was at stake, but there was plenty of national pride.

Pacquiao is a national hero in the Philippines. Morales is revered in Mexico, and between the two they drew a sellout crowd of 14,623 to the MGM Grand hotel to see them brawl.

They didn't disappoint, going after each other from the opening bell in a fight that grew in intensity after Pacquiao was cut in the fifth round when hit with a right hand and the two clashed heads.

Though blood flowed in his eye, Pacquiao fought gallantly and the fighters went toe to toe in a frenetic 12th round with the crowd standing and cheering.

All three judges had Morales the winner, but not by much. He won 115-113 on the ringside scorecards, while The Associated Press had Morales ahead 116-112.

"He was a tough guy. I hit him with everything," Morales said. "I knew the guy was quick. I knew boxing would be the key because he was so fast."

It was the first fight at 130 pounds for Pacquiao, and Morales appeared to be the bigger fighter and the bigger puncher.

Pacquiao fought inside with flurries, but it was the right hand of Morales (48-2) that was the big punch in the fight.

Still, Pacquiao landed effectively with both hands and kept punching and coming forward and in the 12th round seemed to be landing the bigger punches.

"It was a close fight with a lot of close rounds," Pacquiao's trainer,

Freddie Roach, said. "Morales landed the bigger punches but Manny landed more combinations."

Pacquiao blamed the loss on having to wear different type of gloves than he usually uses. He wore them because his promoter, Mund Muhammad, signed a deal for his fighter to wear them.

Neither fighter went down, but it wasn't for lack of effort. They brawled at a relentless pace that brought back memories of Morales' three fights with Marco Antonio Barrera.

"I tried my best," Pacquiao said.

Pacquiao (39-3-2) came into the ring with the weight of his country on his slight shoulders. Some 30 million people in the Philippines were expected to watch the fight on live television.

In another fight on the card, Martin Castillo of Mexico retained his WBA 115-pound title with a unanimous decision over Eric Morel (35-2) of Puerto Rico. Castillo (28-1) led 119-109 on all three scorecards in his second title defense.



Erik Morales of Mexico, right, rocks Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines with a right hand in their super featherweight bout on Saturday night.

Consolidator's San Felipe romp gives Lukas a Derby contender

The Associated Press

ARCADIA, Calif. — Consolidator was a record-setting winner of the \$250,000 San Felipe Stakes on Saturday, giving trainer D. Wayne Lukas a top Kentucky Derby hopeful.

Derby prep

Consolidator, fourth in the San Vicente in his last start at Santa Anita, was ready for this race. The colt owned by Bob and Beverly Lewis won the 1 1/8-mile race in 1:40.11 — a full second faster than the previous market set by Pole Position in 1979. His 6 1/2-length margin of victory over Giacomo also was a stakes record.

Wilko, the Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner, finished fourth in the eight-horse field, with Bob Baffert's Roman Ruler last in his first start since finishing fifth in the BC Juvenile on Oct. 30.

Consolidator will run next in either the Santa Anita Derby on April 9 or the Blue Grass Stakes at Lexington, Ky., a week later.

Consolidator, ridden by Rafael Bejarano, paid \$16.40, \$6.80 and \$4.20.

Rebel Stakes

Contenders fade at Oaklawn: At Hot Spots, Ark., Affect Affected badly in the stretch and Rockport Harbor broke the lead. That allowed Greater Good (\$11.20) to storm past both for a half-length victory in the \$250,000 Rebel Stakes at Oaklawn Park on Saturday.

The surprising result in the Kentucky Derby prep race raised



Survivor charges to victory in the Gotham Stakes at Aqueduct.

that won the Derby and Preakness last year with Smarty Jones.

Greater Good, ridden by John McKee, won for the fifth time in seven career starts and is 2-for-2 this year. Greater Good covered 1 1/8 miles in 1:44.92.

Tampa Bay Derby

Favorite easy winner in Tampa: At Oldsmar, Fla., Sun King (\$2.10) pulled away in the stretch and easily won the \$250,000 Tampa Bay Derby, solidifying his status as a Derby contender.

Trained by Nick Zito, Sun King improved to 2-for-2 this year by seizing control of the 1 1/8-mile race right from the start.

The winning time was 1:43.98, just off the track record of 1:43.40. Next stop for Sun King is the Blue Grass at Keeneland on April 16.

Gotham Stakes

Ziro's horse wins Gotham: At New York, Survivorist (\$8.90) lived up to his name and won the Gotham Stakes at Aqueduct, sweeping past the field in the final strides and withstanding a steward's inquiry.

Pavo, who finished second in a gallant effort, was disqualified to fourth after stewards ruled that the colt's jockey, Alan Garcia, inadvertently whipped Naughty New Yorker in the face during a wild stretch run. Garcia somehow managed to ride most of the race with his feet out of the stirrups.

Survivorist, Galloping Grocer and Naughty New Yorker are expected to run in the Wood Memorial on April 9, a final prep before the Kentucky Derby.

The winning time for the one-turn mile was 1:35.61.

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NBA suspends Mavericks to victory after Nelson resigns as coach

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Dirk Nowitzki scored plenty of points as usual. The four-time All-Star also going to have to play consistent defense now that the Dallas Mavericks are Avery Johnson's team for good.

After Nowitzki scored 20 of his 33 points by halftime, he was benched for a possession 20 seconds into the second half after not executing a defensive play to the satisfaction of Johnson.

"I had him yanked out of there because I wasn't pleased with his defense," Johnson said.

It was a tough first game for Johnson even though the Mavericks called Charlotte 104-93 Saturday night.

Still, it was special for Johnson, the protégé who took over the job when Don Nelson resigned earlier in the day. Johnson planned to give the game to the man he replaced.

While the Mavericks outbounded Charlotte 49-33, the Mavs struggled often on the defensive side that Johnson stresses so much. Nowitzki allowing a long jumper by 7-foot-1 Primož Brezec was just one example of many times Johnson cringed court-side.

Nelson wasn't likely to put Nowitzki on the bench for something like that, Johnson did quickly.

"I didn't do my job on defense. I let my guy get the ball too deep. That's a message he sent to me and everybody," Nowitzki said. "I came back in and did a better job. We've all got to take that message."

Nelson, who remains a team consultant, was never far away. He watched much of his first game in the new role from an empty seat on press row.

The second-winningest coach in NBA history was recognized before the game, waving to the crowd from just behind the scorer's table at midcourt. He watched the first quarter from

Roundup

the nearby tunnel, seemingly trying to stay out of view before moving closer.

Nelson finished with a career record of 1,190-880 over 27 seasons, including stints with Milwaukee, Golden State and the New York Knicks. He went 339-251 in eight seasons with Dallas, best in franchise history.

Heat 97, Knicks 82: At Miami, Shaquille O'Neal scored 33 points and Dwyane Wade had 30 to lead the Heat to their 12th straight victory.

O'Neal also grabbed 17 rebounds as Miami won its 15th straight at home and swept the four-game season series with New York for the first time in franchise history.

O'Neal and Wade became the first Heat duo to score 30 apiece in a game since Glen Rice and Khalid Reeves in 1995 against Philadelphia.

Wizards 96, Jazz 95: At Washington, Gilbert Arenas rallied from a scoreless first half with 22 points in the second, including two free throws with 2.3 seconds to play.

After Raja Bell hit a fadeaway 18-footer for Utah with 18 seconds remaining, Arenas dribbled down the clock for the final shot and was fouled by Bell while driving the lane. Arenas made two free throws, and the Wizards missed a contested 16-foot jumper the buzzer to send the Jazz to their ninth straight loss.

Larry Hughes scored 21 points for the Wizards.

Bulls 94, 76ers 88: At Philadelphia, Otella Harrington scored a season-high 24 points and Ben Gordon had eight of his 22 in the fourth quarter, helping Charlotte snap a four-game losing streak.

Allen Iverson, playing his 30th

more games, if the NBA determines his actions warrant a more serious punishment.

After league suspended Dennis Rodman for 11 games and fined him \$25,000 in 1997 for kicking a courtside photographer in the groin.

Reached on his cell phone in Portland on Saturday, Francis told the Sentinel, "It's crazy. I don't even want to talk about it until I speak to my agent."

Asked if he wanted a change to tell his side of the story, Francis said, "I don't make a difference. The perception's out there, so it ain't going to make a difference what I say."

Francis is the third Magic play-



AP

Former Dallas Mavericks coach Don Nelson, who announced his retirement earlier in the day, coaches the team against the Charlotte Bobcats in Dallas on Saturday. The Mavs won 104-93.

ond straight game with a chipped bone in his left thumb, led the Sixers with 31 points.

Celtics 113, Hornets 100: At New Orleans, Ricky Davis scored 27 points and Paul Pierce 23, helping Boston cruise to its seventh straight victory.

Magic 97, Trail Blazers 92: At Portland, Greg Grant hit 23 points and eight rebounds, and Orlando snapped a seven-game losing skid by handing the Trail Blazers their fourth straight loss.

Magic interim coach Chris Jean earned his first victory after taking over for Johnny Davis, who lost his job Thursday.

Kings 111, Clippers 107 (OT): At Los Angeles, Cuttino Mobley scored 15 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter, while Mike Bibby had two key baskets in overtime and Sacramento completed its second straight season sweep of Los Angeles.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Eastern Conference	
	W L
San Jose	52 16
Detroit	41 23
Boston	38 29
Washington	36 28
Cleveland	34 29
Chicago	33 31
Philadelphia	33 31

NCAA women's tournament

Tennessee takes down another favorite from Carolina

The Associated Press

DALLAS — After tournament upsets in consecutive seasons, Middle Tennessee is no longer content with being a spoiler.

"Getting any win in the NCAs is great," guard Patrice Holmes said. "Now, hopefully, we can get to the Sweet 16 this time."

It certainly seems possible for the No. 12 seed, which notched an other first-round upset Saturday night with a 60-58 victory over fifth-seeded North Carolina State in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

Last season, the Lady Raiders were a No. 13 seed when they knocked off fourth-seeded North Carolina 67-62.

It was Holmes who sent Middle Tennessee (24-8) to the second round, hitting the game-winning jumper with 1.6 seconds left.

Holmes set a screen before finding herself open near the top of the key, letting the ball go almost immediately after it touched her hands.

Middle Tennessee players and a few fans rushed onto the court after the final buzzer, celebrating the fourth NCAA tournament victory in school history.

Holmes, a senior who has started all 123 games in her career, finished with 26 points on 11-of-18 shooting.

Holmes' heroics came after N.C. State had tied the game with 26.6 seconds remaining on a basket by sophomore guard Tiffany Stanbury. The Wolfpack with 16 points and 10 rebounds.

The loss ended an emotional year for N.C. State coach Jack Yow, who in January began treatment for a recurrence of breast cancer. She was forced to skip two games, her first absences in 30 years of coaching.

"We know what Middle Tennessee was capable of," Yow said. "This team beat North Carolina in the first round last year, so we had that knowledge and it was an advantage to us. We knew it would be a tough game."

N.C. State (21-8) played most of the game without leading scorers Billie McDowell, whose left knee buckled as she planted her leg for a jumper with 11:57 left in the first half. She writhed on the floor for several minutes and ended in the locker room for the rest of the game.

X-rays revealed no breaks, but McDowell was to undergo an MRI on Sunday.

Texas Tech 69, Texas-Arlington 49: At Dallas, LaToya Davis had a career-high 26 points and added 14 rebounds to lead the Red Raiders (22-9) to their 14th straight first-round victory.

Tempe Regional

Bayler 91, Illinois St. 70: At Seattle, Sophia Young scored 21 points and Stefanie Blackmon added 13 to help the Lady Bears rout the Redbirds.

Oregon 58, TCU 55: At Seat-

Middle Tennessee guard Patrice Holmes reacts after making the winning shot against North Carolina State on Saturday in Dallas.



tle, Cathrine Kraayeveld scored 23 points and Brandi Davis had two critical three-pointers for 10th-seeded Oregon (21-9).

Virginia 79, Old Dominion 57: At Minneapolis, Brandi Domster scored 17 of her 23 points in the second half, Takisha Granberry hit two key three-pointers to help break it open and the Cavaliers (21-10) celebrated their return to the NCAA tournament after a one-year absence.

Minnesota 64, St. Francis, Pa. 33: At Minneapolis, Jamie Broback had 17 points and three steals and Janet McCarville added 12 points, 15 rebounds and five blocks for the third-seeded Gophers (25-7).

Arizona 87, Eastern Kentucky 65: At Fresno, Calif., Emily Westenberg scored 14 of her 20 points in the first half and the Sun Devils (23-9) advanced past the first round for the second time in four years.

Notre Dame 61, UC Santa Barbara 51: At Fresno, Calif., Megan Duffy scored 18 points, hitting seven free throws in the final minute, and the fourth-seeded Fighting Irish (27-5) bounced back from a semifinal loss to Connecticut in the Big East tournament.

Kansas City Regional

Michigan St. 73, Alcorn St. 41: At Minneapolis, Liza Shimek had 18 points and 13 rebounds to help the top-seeded Spartans (29-3) win their 13th straight game.

Southern California 65, Louisville 49: At Minneapolis, Chloe Kerr scored 14 points, Camille Leach had 13 and Kim Gipson added 12 for the eighth-seeded Trojans (20-10).

Stanford 94, Santa Clara 57: At Fresno, Calif., Candice Wiggins played brilliantly in her NCAA tournament debut, scoring 16 of her 29 points in a dominant second-half outburst that carried the top-ranked Cardinal (30-2) to their 21st straight victory.

Utah 73, Iowa St. 61: At Fresno, Calif., Kim Smith had 22 points and eight rebounds and the 10th-seeded Utes (26-7) rallied from a 15-point first-half deficit to beat the Cyclones (23-7).

Kansas 50, Bowling Green 60: At Seattle, Big 12 player of the year Kendra Wecker scored 18 of her 25 points in the second half to lead the Wildcats (24-7).

Vanderbilt 67, Montana 44: At Seattle, Ash Ramsey scored all 13 of her points in the first half, and Ashley Earley scored 15 of her 17 in the second half for the fifth-seeded Commodores (23-7).

Chattanooga Regional

Texas 64, Oral Roberts 47: At Dallas, Nina Norman, playing despite a broken pinkie, scored 20 points on 7-of-11 shooting and added five assists for the third-seeded Longhorns (22-8).

Georgia 75, Rice 49: At Dallas, Lori Chambers scored 19 points, Sherill Baker had 14 points and James Hardrick added 13 for the sixth-seeded Bulldogs (23-9).

NCAA Women's tournament

PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL

First Round

Saturday, March 19

Middle Tennessee State 60, North Carolina State 58

Sunday, March 20

Texas Tech 69, Texas-Arlington 49

New Mexico (29-4) vs. Western Carolina (18-13)

Tennessee (26-4) vs. Western Carolina (18-13)

Temple (27-3) vs. Louisiana Tech (20-9)

Rutgers (25-6) vs. Hartford (22-8)

Ohio State (28-0) vs. Holy Cross (20-10)

Maryland (21-9) vs. Wisconsin-Green Bay (27-3)

Second Round

Monday, March 21

Middle Tennessee State (24-8) vs. Texas Tech (23-7)

Tuesday, March 22

Tennessee/Western Carolina vs. New Mexico/Purdue

Temple/Louisiana Tech vs. Rutgers/Hartford

Ohio State/Wisconsin-Green Bay vs. Ohio State/Holy Cross

Semifinals

Sunday, March 27

Middle Tennessee State/Texas Tech vs. Tennessee/Western Carolina/New Mexico/Purdue

Temple/Louisiana Tech/Rutgers/Hartford vs. Maryland/Wisconsin-Green Bay/Ohio State/Holy Cross

Championships

CHATTANOOGA REGIONAL

First Round

Saturday, March 19

Kansas 64, Oral Roberts 47

Georgia 75, Rice 49

Sunday, March 20

Oklahoma (17-12) vs. Arizona (19-11)

LSU (22-9) vs. Stetson (17-13)

DePaul (25-1) vs. Virginia Tech (17-11)

North Carolina (27-3) vs. Oklahoma (16-12)

Duke (28-4) vs. Canisius (21-9)

Boston College (19-9) vs. Houston (21-8)

Second Round

Monday, March 21

Georgia (23-9) vs. Texas (22-8)

Tuesday, March 22

LSU/Stetson/Oklahoma/Arizona

DePaul/Virginia Tech vs. Penn State/Liberty

Boston College/Houston vs. Duke/Canisius

Semifinals

Saturday, March 26

LSU/Stetson/Oklahoma/Arizona vs. DePaul/Virginia Tech-Penn State/Liberty

Georgia/Texas vs. Boston College/Houston-Duke/Canisius

Championship

Monday, March 28

KANSAS CITY REGIONAL

First Round

Saturday, March 19

Southern California 65, Louisville 49

Michigan State 73, Alcorn State 41

Utah 73, Iowa State 61

Stanford 94, Santa Clara 57

Utah 73, Iowa State 61

Vanderbilt 67, Montana 44

Sunday, March 20

Connecticut (27-9) vs. Oklahoma (16-12)

Florida State (23-7) vs. Richmond (23-7)

Second Round

Monday, March 21

Michigan State (29-3) vs. Southern California (26-10)

Utah (26-7) vs. Stanford (30-2)

Vanderbilt (23-7) vs. Kansas State (24-7)

Tuesday, March 22

Florida State/Richmond vs. Connecticut/Dartmouth

Semifinals

Sunday, March 27

Michigan State/Southern California vs. Vanderbilt/Kansas State

Florida State/Richmond-Connecticut vs. Utah/Dartmouth

Championship

Tuesday, March 29

TEMPE REGIONAL

First Round

Saturday, March 19

Virginia 79, Old Dominion 57

Minnesota 64, St. Francis, Pa. 33

Arizona State 87, Eastern Kentucky 65

Notre Dame 61, UC Santa Barbara 51

Bayler 91, Illinois State 70

Oregon 58, Texas Christian 55

Sunday, March 20

North Carolina (27-3) vs. Coppin State (22-7)

Mississippi (19-10) vs. George Washington (22-8)

Second Round

Monday, March 21

Virginia (21-8) vs. Minnesota (25-7)

Arizona State (22-9) vs. Notre Dame (27-5)

Oregon (21-9) vs. Baylor (28-3)

Tuesday, March 22

North Carolina/Coppin State vs. Mississippi/George Washington

Semifinals

Saturday, March 26

North Carolina/Coppin State-Mississippi/George Washington vs. Arizona State/Notre Dame

Arizona State/Notre Dame vs. Oregon/Baylor

Championship

Sunday, March 28

Arizona State/Notre Dame vs. Oregon/Baylor

North Carolina/Coppin State vs. Mississippi/George Washington

Championship

Sunday, April 3

Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Tempe Regional champion

Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Kansas City Regional champion

Championship

Sunday, April 3

Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Tempe Regional champion

Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Kansas City Regional champion

Championship

Sunday, April 3

Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Tempe Regional champion

Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Kansas City Regional champion

Championship

Sunday, April 3

Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Tempe Regional champion

Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Kansas City Regional champion

Championship

Sunday, April 3

Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Tempe Regional champion

Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Kansas City Regional champion

Championship

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Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Tempe Regional champion

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Championship

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Championship

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Championship

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Championship

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Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Tempe Regional champion

Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Kansas City Regional champion

Championship

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Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Tempe Regional champion

Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Kansas City Regional champion

Championship

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Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Kansas City Regional champion

Championship

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Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Tempe Regional champion

Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Kansas City Regional champion

Championship

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Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Tempe Regional champion

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Championship

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Sunday, April 3

Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Tempe Regional champion

Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Kansas City Regional champion

Championship

Sunday, April 3

Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Tempe Regional champion

Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Kansas City Regional champion

Championship

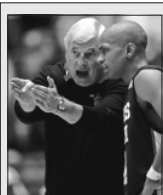
Sunday, April 3

NCAA tournament: Austin Regional



Saturday night's NCAA tournament game between unfriendly neighbors Kentucky and Cincinnati took an emotional toll on coaches as well as players. Kentucky's Tubby Smith signals to his team while, at right, Cincinnati's Bob Huggins can't believe a call made by an official. Kentucky beat Cincinnati 69-60 to advance to the NCAA tournament's round of 16.

AP photos



Coach Bob Knight is back in the Sweet 16 with Texas Tech.

Men's NCAA tournament

OPENING ROUND

Tuesday, March 15
Oakland, Mich. 75, Alabama A&M 69

SYRACUSE REGIONAL

First Round
Friday, March 18
North Carolina 73, Charlotte 63
Connecticut 77, Central Florida 71
Iowa State 64, Minnesota 50
North Carolina 96, Oakland, Mich. 68
Florida 87, Ohio 63
Villanova 55, New Mexico 47
Wisconsin 57, Northern Iowa 52
Bucknell 64, Kansas 50

Second Round

Sunday, March 20
Connecticut vs. North Carolina State
North Carolina vs. Iowa State
Florida vs. Villanova
Bucknell vs. Wisconsin

Semifinals

Friday, March 25
N. Carolina/Iowa St. vs. Florida/Villanova
UConn/N.C. State vs. Bucknell/Wisconsin

Final Four

Sunday, March 27
Championship
Cincinnati Regional
Thursday, March 17
Wisconsin 65, Kansas 63
Boston College 85, Pennsylvania 65

Semifinals

Friday, March 18
Illiinois 67, Fairleigh Dickinson 55
Arizona 68, Kentucky 62
Alabama-Birmingham 82, LSU 68

Final Four

Friday, March 18
Oklahoma State 52, St. Louis 50
Southern Illinois 65, Saint Mary's, Calif. 56

Second Round

Sunday, March 20
Illiinois 71, Nevada 59
Wisc. Milwaukee 63, Boston College 75
Arizona 85, Alabama-Birmingham 63

Semifinals

Friday, March 24
Illiinois vs. Michigan
Oklahoma St. 75, Illinois vs. Arizona

Championship

Friday, March 25
Illiinois vs. Michigan
Oklahoma St. 75, Illinois vs. Arizona

First Round

Thursday, March 17
Kentucky 72, Eastern Kentucky 64
Cincinnati 84, Niagara 67
Oklahoma 84, Niagara 67
Utah 66, Texas 61

Second Round

Friday, March 18
Vermont 81, Michigan State 61
Michigan 81, Old Dominion 81
Mississippi 57, Stanford 70

Semifinals

Friday, March 18
Kentucky vs. Utah
Kentucky vs. Utah

Championship

Sunday, March 27
Kentucky vs. Utah
Kentucky vs. Utah

First Round

Thursday, March 17
Pacific 79, Iowa 62
Wake Forest 80, Chattanooga 54
West Virginia 65, Creighton 66
Washington 88, Montana 77

Semifinals

Friday, March 18
Georgia Tech 78, UCLA 66
Louisville 68, LA-Lafayette 65
Texas Tech 78, Texas Tech 78

Second Round

Saturday, March 19
Georgia Tech 78, Georgia Tech 78
West Virginia 11, Wake Forest 105, 207

Semifinals

Sunday, March 20
Louisville vs. Georgia Tech
Louisville vs. Georgia Tech

Championship

Monday, April 4
Championship
Final Four
Saturday, April 2
Chicago Regional champion vs. Albuquerque Regional champion vs. Syracuse Regional champion vs. Austin Regional champion

BY MICHAEL MAROT

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Cincinnati still is playing the little brother to neighboring Kentucky. The Wildcats just keep beating them up.

Second-seeded Kentucky relied on three-point shooting to get started, then strong-armed the undersized Bearcats inside and finally wore them down late to pull away with a 69-60 second-round victory Saturday in the NCAA tournament's Austin Regional.

"They try to put a lot of pressure on you," said Kelenna Azubuike, who led Kentucky with 19 points. "The way to beat that is be aggressive and fight the pressure, not back down."

The bitterness between schools located about 90 miles apart has been fueled by the rivalry with which they play. There have been just six games since 1948; Kentucky has won 15 straight in the series dating to 1939.

Saturday's victory meant even more, though. The Wildcats (27-5) avoided a second straight second-round upset and a third straight elimination by a Conference USA school, and now face sixth-seeded Utah, 67-58 winner over Oklahoma.

Cincinnati still winless since '39 as Wildcats use interior strength

Kentucky won this one by dominating the middle.

Chuck Hayes finished with 10 points and eight rebounds and freshman Randolph Morris produced the first double-double of his career with 11 points and 12 rebounds. Azubuike had nine rebounds and another freshman, Rajon Rondo, added 16 points.

The Wildcats outscored Cincinnati 34-12 inside.

"Randolph, late, was grabbing every rebound," Hayes said. "He was becoming a presence down there in the paint."

The game even had the elements of a family feud.

A crowd of 40,331 set the one-seeded record for an NCAA subregional site, breaking the previous mark of 39,940 set in Indianapolis in 1990. Most of the fans were clad in Kentucky blue or Illinois orange, but as the second game started, pockets of Cincinnati red also appeared.

Fans interrupted each other's chants and one held a sign that

read "Real Cats Wear Blue and White, not Black and Red." Kentucky fans even booed the Bearcats' cheerleaders as they led the team onto the floor.

On the court, emotions were stronger. Cincinnati's James White had an angry expression on his face during warmups and Kentucky players were chest bumping before introductions.

The coaches got involved, too. Cincinnati's Bob Huggins worked the officials hard and Kentucky's Tubby Smith repeatedly stomped the floor and walked onto the court to make points.

That was that kind of day — and that kind of game.

Utah 67, Oklahoma 58: Andrew Bogut makes everyone around him better, and his Utah teammates were at their best Saturday.

The sixth-seeded Utes capitalized on the 7-foot Aussie's skilled passing and Justin Hawkins' 20 points to beat the third-seeded Sooners.

NCAA tournament: Syracuse Regional

Carolina enters a new zone vs. Iowa St.

BY RON GREEN JR.

The Charlotte Observer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — North Carolina point guard Raymond Felton, from whom all things seem to flow in the Tar Heels' offense, did a nice job Saturday afternoon of projecting the image of a man unconcerned about the game and his teammates will face Sunday when they meet Iowa State in the NCAA tournament's second round.

"We're just going to play our game, move the ball and try to break the zone," Felton said, subtly shaking his head as he sat in front of his locker after a one-hour practice.

That is, of course, the mantra of all teams still alive in the king of the hill world of the NCAA tournament. Every team intends to "do

what we do" believing it will be good enough.

In the case of the top-seeded Tar Heels, attempting to impose their aggressive will on the Cyclones will require an understanding of what they're facing. In 32 games this season, the Tar Heels haven't run into a defense quite like this one.

If Felton's value weren't already obvious enough, it will likely come into sharper focus on Sunday when he works against the Cyclones' attacking 2-3 zone defense.

On the defensive end, the Cyclones lack a little of what Jim Boeheim uses at Syracuse, a dose of John Chaney's match-up zone at Temple and blended that with some wrinkles coach Wayne Morgan has found to be effective.

The result is a defense that be-

lies the image of zone defenses being relatively passive concepts designed to force opponents to do their scoring from the perimeter. Iowa State has held opponents to 41 percent shooting this season and forced an average of 17 turnovers per game.

The Cyclones like to press, sometimes full-court, sometimes three-quarter court, then fall back into a zone that has an almost frenetic quality to it.

"If they pressure us, we're going to go right past them," Felton said.

Iowa State likes to push big men away from the basket, cut off passing lanes and rely on quickness to make life miserable for opponents.

"One reason it works for us is a lot of teams have gone away from (playing zones) so they haven't seen it a lot," Morgan said.

The Tar Heels live in a man-to-man world, but at one time or another have faced the various elements they will see from the Cyclones on Sunday. That familiarity, coupled with the determination to make Iowa State adapt to them, will be at the essence of North Carolina's plan.

"I'm not good enough for our guys to go out there and feel totally comfortable," coach Roy Williams said.

The emphasis, Williams said, will be for the Tar Heels to understand what they're seeing.

"If we lose focus, it's a turnover. That's the bottom line," Williams said.

The Cyclones, who have a superior point guard of their own in Curtis Stinson, aren't afraid to run with the Tar Heels, either. "I think we can run with anybody," Stinson said.

NCAA tournament: Chicago Regional

Wis.-Milwaukee strikes again

After second upset, Panthers head to Sweet 16 matchup with Illinois

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Bruce Pearl's eyes welled up and his throat tightened the moment he heard Boston College's fight song. Nothing makes him cry quicker than "For Boston."

A few hours later, Wisconsin-Milwaukee's coach, who once stuffed himself inside BC's mascot suit for a game, clapped his hands to another sentimental tune — one without a title.

"It's just called the UWM fight song," said a Milwaukee band member, showing the sheet music.

On Saturday, they were singing it from Madison to Menomonee Falls.

Josh Tucker scored 23 points, Ed McCants had 18 and Adrian Tigner 16 as the 12th-seeded Panthers sprung their second NCAA tournament upset in three days, an 83-75 victory over Boston College in the second round Saturday.

Given little chance in the opening round against Alabama from the Southeastern Conference or against the Big East's regular-season champion, Milwaukee (26-5) gave the nation's mid-major programs another moment to savor this March.

"We're going to the Sweet 16," Tucker said after the Panthers pranced around the floor. "We've got a name to put on this win."

They did it the way they know best: with a relentless, full-court press that confounded the Eagles (25-5), forcing them into 22 turnovers — the most crucial one a pass that was thrown away with 121 remaining and BC down 76-5.

"I thought we would handle it better," Eagles coach Al Skinner said. "They attacked us, stayed aggressive and didn't stop."

The Panthers, who have won 11 straight and 19 of 20, weren't intimidated by some early trash talk from Boston College and overcame foul trouble in the second half to advance to next week's round of 16.

Milwaukee will play Illinois on Thursday in the Chicago Regional in Rosemont, Ill. The Panthers are the fifth No. 12 seed to advance to the final 16 since 1989 and the first since Butler, their Horizon league brethren, in 2003.

After the final seconds ticked off, Pearl, a BC grad and assistant at Chestnut Hill who landed a gig as eagle for the day in a 1981 tournament game, swung his 10-year-old daughter, Leah, around at midcourt.

Nearby, the Panthers, who by game's end had won over 90 percent of the Wolstein Center crowd with their inspired play, high-fived and hugged after trumping the win over Alabama with an even bigger one.

Now they'll have a chance to knock off the Fighting Illini — a No. 1 seed and the nation's consensus No. 1 team.

"We have at least 24 hours to celebrate," said McCants, the Horizon's Player of the Year. "We understand we still have games to be played. There won't be any ridiculous amount of celebrating. It'll be back to business when we get back to Milwaukee."

Illinois 71, Nevada 59: At Indianapolis, James Augustine scored a career-high 23 points and Jack Ingram added 12 in the top-seeded Illini's victory. Augustine also had 10 rebounds, four blocked shots and two steals.

Illinois' famed guard trio of Deron Williams, Dee Brown and Luther Head combined for 31 points, to most come late in the game as the big guys took center stage. Williams scored five points on free throws down the stretch.



Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Derrick Ford (50) and Jason McCoy (21) knock the ball away from Boston College's Jared Dudley in the second half Saturday in Cleveland. No. 12 seed Wisconsin-Milwaukee scored its second upset in three days by defeating fourth-seeded BC 83-75.

The Illini (34-1) reached the regional semifinals for the second straight season and fourth time in the last five seasons.

Kevin Pinkney led the Wolf Pack (25-7) with 22 points and 11 rebounds. Mo Charlo added 12.

Arizona 85, UAB 63: At Boise, Idaho, Salim Stoudamire made five three-pointers and had 28 points, and Arizona didn't buckle under Alabama-Birmingham's constant pressure defense.

Arizona (29-6) struggled with UAB's frenetic, trapping defense in the first half, but had only four turnovers in the second to reach the round of 16 for the 12th time.

The Wildcats, the 1997 national champions, advanced to Rosemont, Ill., next weekend and will face Oklahoma State or Southern Illinois, which play Sunday in Oklahoma City.

Donell Taylor scored 13 points for the Blazers (22-11).

Gansey: Yet another big finish for W.Va.

GANSEY, FROM BACK PAGE

The burden appeared to weigh on them in their 70-54 victory over Chattanooga on Thursday. Several players conceded they felt some opening-game jitters.

"This time, they couldn't hold onto a 13-point halftime lead or hold off a team that has made its mark by knocking off Top 25 teams. West Virginia tore through the Big East tournament to reach the final, developing a knack for big finishes."

None was bigger than this one. "I just hope we have a city when we get back to school," said Mountaineers guard J.D. Collins. "It might get burned down."

Gansey, who had about 300 friends and relatives in the stands, made a free throw that tied it at 77 with 21 seconds left in regulation.

He was just getting started. The frenetic pace stretched into overtime, with neither team ahead by more than a couple of baskets. It was tied at 93 when Wake Forest center Eric Williams blocked Johannes Herber's driving layup with 2 seconds to go at the end of the first overtime.

Paul scored 10 points in the first overtime, helping Wake Forest keep up with Gansey, who had 10 in the first overtime and nine more in the second, capping a comeback that will live in West Virginia lore.

"We were down, it's the story of our season," said West Virginia coach John Beilein. "We didn't quit."

They were in trouble at halftime, trailing 40-27 with no idea how to contain the Demon Deacons' punishing inside game. Williams finished with 23 points and 12 rebounds.

Wake Forest extended its defense to contain the Mountaineers' shooting. With six school records for three-pointers this season.

Instead, West Virginia started taking the ball inside and scoring at will, and the Demon Deacons lost their grip on the game.

"We were just trying to guard the three-point line," forward Jamar Levy said. "We guarded them in the first half, but in the second half they started being aggressive and taking it to the basket. We couldn't stop them."

West Virginia started holding its own inside and D'Or Fischer, the star of the tournament's 2001 play-in game, momentarily took the stage again, turning it into a game.

Fischer, who blocked nine shots in Northwestern State's play-in victory and later transferred to West Virginia, had a three-point play, a dunk and a block during a 10-3 sprint that cut it to 54-51 midway through the second half and set up the dramatic finish.

It finally ended when Wake Forest's Trent Strickland missed a three-pointer, the second left in the second overtime, and Herber's fastbreak layup sealed it with 13 seconds to go.

NCAA tournament: Albuquerque Regional

Washington shows why it's a No. 1 seed

The Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Washington is making it a lot harder to question its No. 1 seed in the Albuquerque Regional.

The Huskies advanced to the round of 16 for the first time since 1998 with a convincing 97-79 victory over Pacific on Saturday.

Nate Robinson scored 18 of his 23 points in the second half, but Jay Jones scored 19 and Will Conroy had 10 assists for Washington (29-5).

The Simmons scored 15 for the Pac-10 champion Huskies, whose team was the most disputed among the four No. 1s. But Washington backed it up well against Pacific.

The Huskies never trailed and pulled away by going 19-for-31 (61 percent) from the field in the second half. They finished shooting 56.3 percent (36-for-64) for the game. Next up is the winner of Louisville-Georgia Tech in Thursday's regional semifinal.

Other than a brief push by eighth-seeded Pacific (27-4) midway through the second half, the Huskies dominated and answered their doubters after holding them Montana 88-77 in the opening round.

Guillaume Yango led Pacific with 17 points and 10 rebounds and Christian Marquette added 12 points for the Tigers, but the Swedish forward was shut out in the second half.

The Huskies made 11 of their first 16 shots in the second half and opened with a 13-4 run, which included four straight points after Pacific coach Bob Thomas was called for a technical foul complaining that an offensive foul wasn't called on Simmons when he drove hard to the basket.

Texas Tech 71, Gonzaga 69: At Tucson, Ariz., Bob Knight's Red Raiders rallied from a 13-point second-half deficit to advance to the regional semifinals.

Ronald Ross sank a three-pointer from the corner to put sixth-seeded Tech (22-10) up 68-67 with 1:06 to play, then sealed the victory by making both

halves of a one-and-one with 7.5 seconds remaining.

Ross and Knight hugged in the final seconds as it became obvious that a Knight-coached team would make it to a regional semifinal for the first time since 1994. Ross scored 24 points and backcourt mate Jarriss Jackson added 18 points.

Texas Tech will play West Virginia on Thursday.

Third-seeded Gonzaga (26-5) made an early exit with a high seed for the second year in a row. The Zags were the No. 2 seed a year ago and lost to Nevada in the second round. Adam Morrison had 25 points and nine rebounds for Gonzaga.

SPORTS

Selig says baseball had no knowledge
of possible steroid problem
a decade ago, Page 25



Gansey is homecoming king

W.Va. guard scores
19 of his 29 in OTs
as Mountaineers
oust Wake Forest

BY JOE KAY
The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Former local prep star Mike Gansey spent his summer shooting baskets on Cleveland State's cozy court, picturing himself making a big shot in an NCAA tournament game.

Remarkably, he got the chance on the same court, and made the shot. Then another, and another.

Shooting at those familiar baskets, the junior guard scored a career-high 29 points — 19 of them in the two overtimes — and the Mountaineers sent No. 2 seed Wake Forest to another stunning second-round loss, 111-105 on Saturday night.

West Virginia (23-10) will play Texas Tech next in the Albuquerque Regional, its deepest tournament run since it made the round of 16 in 1998. The Mountaineers have beaten seven Top 25 teams this season, a school record.

The crowd at Cleveland State rooted Wisconsin-Milwaukee to an upset of Boston College in the first game, then reveled as Wake Forest (27-6) became the first ACC team knocked out of the tournament.

"This is just a dream come true," said Gansey, who went to a suburban high school and worked out this summer in Wolstein Center with his brother, Steve, a guard at Cleveland State. "It's an unbelievable feeling."

For Wake Forest as well. After one of its most promising seasons ended with another overtime loss — the Demon Deacons were 0-3 in OT this season — the players couldn't comprehend what had just happened.

"It was what? Three OTs? Two OTs? It was just a long game," said guard Chris Paul, who fouled out with 3:24 left in the second OT. "We got a little fatigued at the end, and Gansey kept making play after play after play."

High expectations accompanied the Demon Deacons, who also lost in the second round as a No. 2 seed in 2003. They returned every scholarship player from last season, were ranked No. 1 in the country for two weeks and set a school record for wins in the NCAA opener.



West Virginia's Mike Gansey waves as he leaves the court after the Mountaineers' 111-105 double-overtime victory over Wake Forest in the second round of the NCAA tournament Saturday in Cleveland. Gansey, who was a Cleveland-area prep standout, led West Virginia with 29 points.

More tournament
coverage inside:



Cincinnati's
history of futility
against Kentucky
continues

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Illinois up next
for UW-Milwaukee
after second upset

Page 31



Middle Tennessee
women making
habit of knocking
off favorites

Page 29

SEE GANSEY ON PAGE 31

Red Sox pitcher
Schilling calls
Canseco's career
'a sham' because
he used steroids

Page 25



Derby preps
roundup: Lukas
has contender
as Consolidator
sets record in
San Felipe win

Page 27



Morales bloodies
Pacquiao,
takes 12-round
decision in
130-pound brawl

Page 27

IRL driver Hornish wins first race in more than a year Page 26